THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Ugadi Rathotsava at Kukke Sri Subramanya Temple on Friday

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▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM
▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and former RDPR Minister K S Eshwarappa pose with the latter's resignation before the media at CM's residence on Race Course Raod in Bengaluru on Friday night; (right) Eshwarappa's supporters raise anti-Congress slogans outside CM's residence | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

BOOKED IN SUICIDE CASE, KSE QUITS BOMMAI MINISTRY

Eshwarappa vows to return as minister, not to take part in BJP meet today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

RURAL Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister KS Eshwarappa on Friday evening tendered his resignation to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai after being booked for abetting suicide of BJP leader and contractor Santosh Patil, who was found dead in an Udupi hotel room on Tuesday morning after reportedly consuming a drink laced with poison.

The resignation was submitted even as a huge crowd of Eshwarappa's supporters had gathered outside CM Bommai's residence on Race Course Road where the resignation was handed over. Inside the CM's residence there followed a meeting with Bommai and other ministers, which included Byrati Basavraj, MTB Nagaraj, Araga Jnanendra and former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi. Bommai announced soon after that Eshwarappa's resignation had been accepted. As per procedures, the Chief Minister will recommend to the Governor for the latter to accept the resignation.

Eshwarappa will not participate in the party's state executive meeting on Saturday in the newly-formed Vijayanagar district, nor in the next state cabinet, and all his scheduled functions now stand cancelled.

The alleged suicide had taken place after the deceased Patil had put out a "suicide note" in the form of a WhatsApp message blaming Eshwarappa for his death in the wake of his and his associates' allegedly harassment, demanding 40 per cent commission to release total payments of Rs 4 crore for works said to have been completed by him.

Patil had reportedly taken up this issue with Eshwarappa as well as central BJP leaders. Following Patil's suicide and the mention of the 40 per cent commission, opposition Congress — which has been referring to the ruling dispensation as a "40% government — had upped the ante and was baying for not only Eshwarappa's resignation, but also that he be booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act and arrested. P4

CONGRESS BUILDS ANTI-CORRUPTION NARRATIVE

The Congress, which sought to build a narrative against corruption in Karnataka ahead of 2023 polls, has drawn first blood as senior BJP leader KS Eshwarappa exited Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai ministry. AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala focussed on allegations of Contractors' Association about 40 per cent commission in the BJP government after Patil's suicide. P4

Delivery of second full S-400 system from Russia on time

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

RUSSIA'S delivery of the second regiment of the strategic S-400 long range air defence missile system to India is bang on time belying concerns of delay in the wake of the sweeping Western sanctions after the Ukraine war.

"Yes, the delivery of components of the second S-400 missile system is under process," a source said, adding it is being made both by air and sea. The first full S-400 regiment was delivered by December 2021 and has already been operationalised by the Indian Air Force. A simulator, which is a training equipment, is also shipped along with each regiment.

A contract for delivery of five S-400

systems from Russia was signed in October 2018 for around ₹35,000 crore. Each regiment comprises four missile launchers. In sum, India will have 20 missile launchers when all five systems are delivered.

The US has so far refrained from invoking its domestic law, Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), against India's S-400 deal. During the recent 2+2 meeting between the US and Indian defence and foreign ministers in Washington, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had reiterated, "We have not made determination of potential sanctions or waivers under CAATSA law." Acknowledging old ties between India and Russia, Blinken said both countries have a "long history and long relationship" in defence equipment trade.

Major General S B Asthana (Retd), a defence analyst, called it a done deal. "This has to go through irrespective of what the US says. It is a buyer's market and sovereign right of India to choose the best equipment which suits our military and national interest."

FOOD DISORDER

Food delivery to be hit as partners log off till Sunday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ORDERING food online is going to be difficult over this weekend as food delivery partners (FDPs) have logged off in protest until Sunday against a new system of time slots introduced by the food delivery apps for them to log in. The new system threatens to affect the earnings of FDPs as it changes from peak to non-peak hours.

United Food Delivery Partners' Union President, Vinay Sarathi told The New Indian Express that FDPs are unhappy with the new system brought in by the companies, including Zomato, and is not acceptable. "Unlike usual, time slots have been created for FDPs to join and operate. These slots are fixed like 7-11am, 11am-1pm and on on. Also attendance to these slots is being reserved for company's preferred FDPs. This directly effects earnings as service charges change during peak and non-peak hours," he said. Most FDPs are on strike protesting against the food delivery apps. Members of the Union announced a three-day strike starting from April 15. P5,10

Rain for next 3 days: weatherman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast thundershowers over most parts of Karnataka for the next three days. An IMD official said the rain is due to local convection, and there is also a trough from west Vidarbha to north interior Karnataka, besides a cyclonic circulation over Lakshadweep area and adjoining southeast Arabian Sea. Apart from this, local convection due to rising temperatures is leading to rainfall.

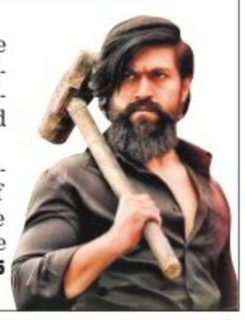
"Most parts of Karnataka will experience April showers for the next three days, with heavy rainfall for the next two days. Formation of systems will lead to intense rainfall," the official said.

KGF: Chapter 2 shatters box office records

NAVEIN DARSHAN

PRASHANTH Neel's period action drama *KGF: Chapter 2* is all the rage across the country. The sequel to the 2018 blockbuster, *KGF: Chapter 1*, was highly anticipated since its announcement and box-office figures confirm that the new film, the second in eight years for director Prashanth Neel and actor Yash, has exceeded all expectations. Hombale films, the production house of *KGF: Chapter 2*, confirmed that a whopping ₹134.5 crore was collected on Thursday, the opening day. The Hindi version of the film has grossed ₹53.95 crore, making it the highest ever first day collection for any film in the language, ahead of *War* and *Thugs of Hindostan*.

"The success isn't a surprise," said S R Prabhu of Dream Warrior Pictures, the Tamil Nadu distributor of the film. CONTINUED ON: P5



'Bulldozer justice' in Guj too for rioters

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

WITH a no-nonsense line on law and order and hard Hindutva helping the BJP retain Uttar Pradesh, poll-bound Gujarat appears to be replicating it after initial experimentation in Madhya Pradesh.

On Friday, the state government demolished 'illegal' properties belonging to the accused in the Ram Navami riots at Khambhat, where one person was killed on April 10.

According to officials, the spot where violence, including stone-pelting and arson, took place has been a source of frequent communal tension and the administration is trying to resolve it permanently.

The local administration demolished the shops located in front of a dargah by running a bulldozer. A large contingent of police personnel was present at the spot. Officials said the properties were illegal and criminal activities were taking place there. They claimed only properties that stood on encroached land were demolished. Obstructions including bushes around these places were also removed, they added.

"The area where the riots took place is very sensitive. Therefore, illegal shops were removed under the guidance of SDM to maintain peace and security," said ASP at Khambhat Abhishek Gupta.

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+
Goat
(Curry cut)
500g
Chicken
(Curry cut)
500g
Code: 575GCP
₹575*
Chicken Ghee Roast
250g
Code: GHEE1
₹1*
Mathi/ Sardine
500g
₹139*
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500g
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ALMANAC TODAY
• **Saturday:** 16/04/2022 • **Year:** Shubhakrutha • **Ayana:** Uttharayana • **Ritu:** Vasantha • **Masa:** Chaitra • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Purnima 12.35 am • **Nakshatra:** Hastha 8.27 am • Moon in Tula Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 09:00 am to 10:30am • **Gulikakala:** 06:00 am to 07:30 am • **Yamaganda:** 01:49 pm to 03:26 pm

WEATHER — MIN 22°C | MAX 33°C
FORECAST Showers late. Broken clouds

Sunrise	6.06 am
Sunset	6.32 pm
Moonrise	6.17 pm
Moonset	5.42 am

HEAVY RAIN, DRAIN WATER LEAVE RESIDENTS IN FILTHY MESS

Areas on either side of storm water drain inundated by flash floods, BBMP begins clearing

SHILPA P @Bengaluru

HEAVY rain which lashed Bengaluru on Thursday night left around 300 houses in five areas flooded with drain water, other areas water-logged and at least 10 trees uprooted across the city. When filthy water began flowing into their homes around 8pm, residents of Banashankari and Kamakya Layout, around Vidyapeeth in Bengaluru South, spent the night clearing water. Besides, 20 households in Ganesh Mandir ward, 30 houses in Chikkasandra, 150 houses in Uttarahalli area of Bommanahalli zone were also flooded with water from the storm water drain. These areas lie on either side of the storm water drain which runs below Outer Ring Road.

With 73mm of rain descending on the area around Vidyapeetha in just half-an-hour, the drain began overflowing into the houses in Ward 183, Kamakya Layout, and Ward 165, Banashankari 3rd Stage.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta visited the area around 11pm for an inspection. Led by Joint Commissioner, South Zone, Jagadish Nayak, a team of more than 100 workers, equipped with earthmovers and tractors, began to clear water and silt, which took almost 24 hours.

"Our road and houses were flooded, with water rising to 4ft. Household appliances like refrigerators, washing machines and other items are spoilt. We couldn't sleep or cook," said Rajesh, a software engineer who lives on Banashankari 1st Main Road. A wholesale drug distributer Chaithanya E shared, "We've lost medical supplies worth at least Rs 15 lakh, as the godown of SK Enterprises was flooded with drain water," he said. R Sumathi of Millet House in the area, said she had lost millets worth Rs 1 lakh.

Rainwater accumulated in Pramoda Layout, Mallathahalli, Golf Club in Bengaluru East and Doddanekkundi in Mahadevapura zone. Besides clearing the water-logged areas, BBMP staff also provided food and drinking water to residents.

RAIN GAUGE (in mm)

Sampangiramnagar	42
VV Puram	45
Bommanahalli	42
Bellandur	40
Anjanapura	36
Gali Anjaneya Temple	37
Koramangala, RR Nagar	34
BEML Layout	31

BBMP workers clear water-logged areas near Kamakya theatre in Banashankari on Thursday evening, (bottom) a pet sits on a couch in an inundated home | SHRIRAM BN

> **Bengaluru came under heavy rain within 30-45 minutes, resulting in flash floods in storm water drains. It led to blocking of three culverts. We've identified 500 low-lying vulnerable places. We will take measures to issue immediate compensation to each house which was flooded. The old culvert in the storm water drain below Outer Ring Road, with less carrying capacity, resulted in floods near Kamakya theatre. We have directed officers to come up with an action plan to create additional capacity for this and other culverts. Sidewalls will be built across all storm water drains. During the monsoon, we will set up control rooms at all 63 sub-divisional offices, while control rooms will be set up at 27 divisional offices immediately. They will be equipped with gangmen, vehicles and equipment. We have 18 teams to clear fallen trees. We've held meetings with officers to be prepared to handle rain.**
>
> Gaurav Gupta, BBMP Chief Commissioner

Downpour damages cars

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

SEVERAL cars were damaged in Banashankari and Katriguppe following heavy rain on Thursday night. Waterlogging was also reported on Kanakapura Road, where traffic was thrown out of gear till late night.

According to CK Achukattu police officials, owners of some of the damaged vehicles are cab drivers whose daily earnings have been affected. Sujatha M, a resident of Hanumanthanagar said: "My brother who is a cab driver, was in the airport till evening. All members of the family were at a theatre nearby to watch a 9pm movie. When we came out, we were shocked to see his car floating and completely damaged. We also spotted several cars piled up due to waterlogging in the middle of the road. We were not able to reach our vehicle and pull it out."

"My brother drives this cab for his livelihood. We need at least two weeks to get the car repaired and he doesn't have any idea what to do for daily earnings," Sujatha added.

Guruprasad, another cab driver, said, "My neighbours alerted me about my car being damaged in the rain, and I called the BBMP control room as tree branches had fallen in the area. They came two hours later. By that time, rainwater had reached several residences."

"Vehicle owners have to approach the area police station to claim damages. However, they are busy clearing water along with BBMP workers and Fire & Emergency services," added a police officer who did not wish to be named.

FESTIVE WEEKEND

Devotees take part in Way of the Cross conducted on Good Friday at St Teresa Church on JC Road, with artists recreating the stations; (Right) a family at Padmeshwari Nagar in KR Puram of Bengaluru celebrate Vishu, the new year for Kerala, Tamil Nadu and parts of Karnataka | NAGARAJA GADEKAL, EXPRESS

TBM 'Lavi' gets stuck nearly 200 times

LALITHA @Bengaluru

IT was a journey like no other that Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited's Tunnel Boring Machine (TMB) Lavi had to undergo before it could call it a day. It had to be interrupted nearly 200 times before it completed its 14-month trip on Saturday at MG Road, exceeding the deadline by two months.

Extremely tough rocky conditions, shortage of oxygen for infrastructure projects due to Covid and manpower shortage were a few of the issues it faced drilling on inch by inch from Shivaji Nagar, after it was launched on February 10, 2021.

Speaking to The New Indian Express on the enormous challenges encountered, a senior Metro official said, "The biggest issue faced when carrying out work using any TBM is the damage to the discs on the cutter head. In case of Lavi, the discs were damaged more than that encountered with any TBM before. For every six metres drilled, four discs get damaged for any machine when passing through regular granite. But since it had to pass through a long stretch of Dolerite Zone, more number of discs got damaged. This forced us to stop, repair the discs and start again. This happened nearly 200 times during the course of the drilling the 1076-metre stretch it completed."

Dolerite is soft outside and is very hard at the core. "After some rings are laid, the machine comes face to face with a very hard surface at the core. This causes numerous damages," he said. The pressure generally applied to break the rocks is 120 Mega Pascal but in the case of Dolerite, a pressure of 180 Mega Pascal had to be used to break them. A team devoted exclusively to set right the broken discs had to be sent to the spot 60 m below the ground.

TBM Lavi achieves a breakthrough at MG Road Station on Friday | EXPRESS

183 BS4 midi buses to stop functioning

PRAVEEN KUMAR @Bengaluru

BMTCs BS4 midi buses which were in news for all the wrong reasons following three bus fire cases in the last three months, will not hit the road anytime soon. BMTC Vice Chairman (VC) M R Venkatesh, has directed the Managing Director (MD) and the Chief Mechanical Engineer (CME) to get all the midi buses of the 2014 batch undergo a thorough check from the R&D team of Ashok Leyland to ascertain the root cause for the fire.

The manufacturers must ensure that there will be no repeat of such incidents, only then the buses will be operational. In case there is a repeat of another bus blaze case even after the certification from the manufacturers, the CME and the depot manager will be held responsible and will have to undergo stringent action. The buses might go under the scanner from Monday onwards.

Speaking to TNIE, Venkatesh said that he has directed V Anbu Kumar, the MD and Srinivas, the CME to stop the operations of all the midi buses for the time being. Srinivas said, "After three buses gutted in the fire, the remaining 183 buses will come under intense checking from Monday."

Airport ops halt due to rain, 29 flights affected

Bengaluru: Heavy rain near Bengaluru airport area caused flight operations to halt for over an hour on Friday evening. Nine arriving flights were diverted to Chennai, and 20 departing flights from Kempegowda International Airport were delayed. According to a spokesperson of airport operator Bangalore International Airport Limited, flight operations were impacted between 6.35pm and 7.38pm. Landing of flights as well as departures commenced normally after 7.38pm, she said. "There was some traffic congestion in arrival of flights. This was eased by 8.26pm," the spokesperson added.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

16th April : Jupiter, planet of extravagance, is in a lively location. In my opinion, we're in a twelve-month cycle which favours people who are actually prepared to put in the practical work necessary to achieve their ambitions. Dreamers, fantasisers and time-wasters may be left on the sidelines - at least until this time next year!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Friends and partners are bound to be jumpy this weekend. You may have to settle for a number of broken arrangements and accept that you might have to alter your opinion of close friends or colleagues. There's a fair amount of emotional intensity today, although it diminishes as the hours pass.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The world as a whole will be short on sound judgment this weekend, so please don't feel singled out if you are the victim of unfair criticism or attacks from friends or relatives. It might be that partners have good reason for their moods, even if they're nothing to do with you!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
It is difficult to think clearly at the moment, or get other people to indulge in anything approaching a rational discussion. You may be wise to steer clear of contentious issues, mainly because partners will almost certainly disagree with you.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Back your instincts and hunches to the hilt as far as your personal plans are concerned, but be very wary about putting anything into action until you are completely confident and absolutely sure of your ground. You'll probably have to wait until partners have made up their minds before you can press ahead.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You don't take kindly to being told to wait your turn and hold your horses. However, it will be a brave Leo who takes on any new initiatives. It is time to keep your head down and avoid trouble, waiting until you sense that blind opposition has passed, and reason has returned.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
It's a fine moment for shopping, indeed for any extravagant outburst; you seem to have a shrewd eye for a bargain. However, you must regard all business and investment opportunities as potential disaster areas. Therefore, why don't you give yourself at least a few more days to think things over.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Everyone, no matter what their individual birth sign, is likely to be involved in events which may be surprising or shocking. Your trump card is your ability to put up with almost any amount of criticism. You may be just a little upset, but really it's all water off a duck's back!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Your financial stars are growing stronger, and that augurs well for your material security. But, you will need to be a super-enlightened person to avoid some of the emotional flak which is flying around this weekend. It's all down to the Sun-Moon alignment, so it won't last long.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Going on a spending spree may be a way of avoiding some of the emotional 'u' turns which seem to be putting a spanner in the works of a generally pleasant weekend. Lay your own pressing questions about the future to one side and concentrate on the here and now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Having to put up with personal complaints is bad enough, but coping with professional problems is even worse. That's why you need to set up strong emotional defences. Please try to retain your sense of humour and laugh your way through stressful circumstances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Several of your planets are now at loggerheads, all apparently determined to frustrate each other's efforts, so you may feel pulled and pushed in different directions. There seems little you can do to resolve such pressures just yet, but you may be able to live with them quite happily.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You like a quiet life and there is no need for you to get involved in unpleasantness, so let other people battle it out. However, you would not be the compassionate person you are, if you did not come forward to help those who are having a hard time of it. By doing good to others, you'll do good to yourself.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

DO I HEAR A LEAF BLOWER IN THIRSTY'S YARD?!
RRRRR
IS HE FINALLY CLEANING THINGS UP?
RRRRRRRR
HE'S JUST USING IT TO START THE COALS IN HIS GRILL.

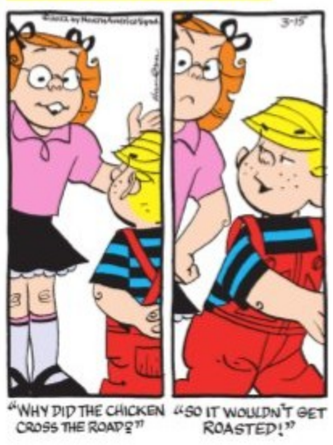
BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

HOW COME YOU WERE CLOSED YESTERDAY?
I WAS CALLED IN FOR JURY DUTY
AND THEY RELEASED YOU IN ONE DAY?
I WAS THE FIRST ONE THEY EXCUSED!
I THINK IT WAS MY APRON THAT DID IT

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE



SUDOKU

Medium: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

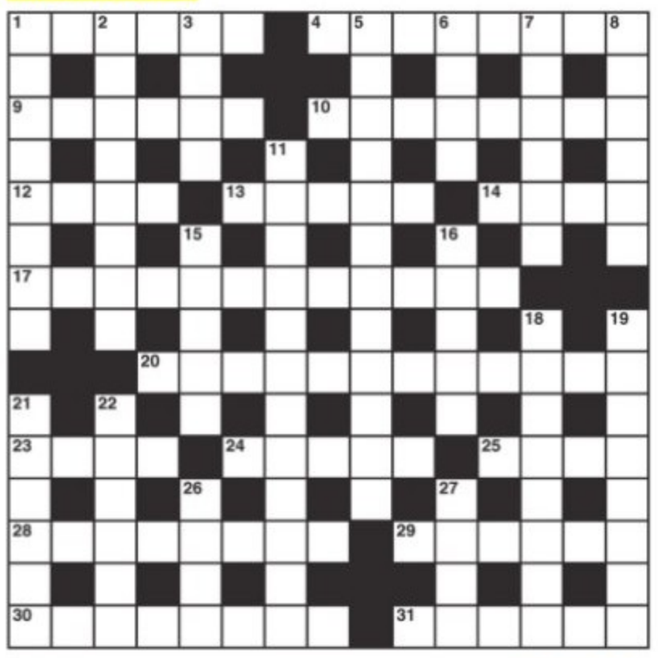
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

	6		8	2		1		
3			6			2		5
					3			
1					9	4		
9	4	7				5	3	1
		3	4					2
			7					
5		4			6			7
		9		8	5		2	

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

3	4	1	9	6	2	8	5	7
7	5	6	8	3	4	9	2	1
9	8	2	1	7	5	6	4	3
6	7	3	2	1	9	4	8	5
8	2	4	6	5	3	1	7	9
5	1	9	7	4	8	3	6	2
1	3	8	5	2	6	7	9	4
2	6	7	4	9	1	5	3	8
4	9	5	3	8	7	2	1	6

CROSS WORD



ACROSS
1 Choose not to be involved with pot? (3,3)
4 Work on some other material (8)
9 Make a mistake and get the message (6)
10 Pedestrian way of choosing candidates (8)
12 Boring makers of laws (4)
13 A growing source of opium (5)
14 List of options for fellows at university (4)
17 They have an interest in conversion schemes (12)
20 Motorists and golfers must do so to begin with (5,2,5)
23 Turns slap into mountains (4)
24 Be inclined to choke with love inside (5)
25 It's made to last (4)
28 Morning revolution? (8)
29 New haunts off the French coast (6)
30 Careless example of hit and run (8)
31 Everyone's included in wicked song (6)

DOWN
1 With which to welcome honest members (4,4)
2 Sits reel out though unwearied (8)
3 Is paid pots say (4)
5 Drops from hard work (12)
6 No idea where you are? Behold the way! (4)
7 Tremble holding weapons (6)
8 It may hold what is laid on the table (6)
11 Gain monopoly in rocks important in building (12)
15 Fresh ideas for personal assistants (5)
16 Prompt about fixing day (5)
18 Strong drink may lead to a smash (8)
19 An exploit indeed to be beaten (8)
21 Shrubs for the French underground (6)
22 City boom precedes tax cut (6)
26 We object to journalist being employed (4)
27 Like one with a large area of land (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Thief, 4 Garland, 8 Mat, 9 Roadworks, 10 Economy, 11 Essay, 13 Thumbs, 15 Slides, 18 Skein, 19 Eardrum, 21 Topiarist, 23 Ago, 24 Premium, 25 Rests.

Down: 1 Tempest, 2 Introduce, 3 Forgo, 4 Gladys, 5 Raw deal, 6 Air, 7 Dishy, 12 Side roads, 14 Bengali, 16 Summons, 17 Medium, 18 Set up, 20 Rotor, 22 Pie.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GNIES

NOCEL

TBNAET

PSOIGS

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Answer here:

ANSWERS TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S **Jumbles:**
FABLE BLURT PEANUT PALACE
ANSWER: The bird that didn't fly away in the face of danger was – UNFLAPPABLE

CK Achukattu police arrested a 43-year-old Nigerian, Johnson Omithonde Peter, a resident of Kothanur, for drug peddling on Thursday night. A police officer said that Peter had moved to Bengaluru a few months ago and started supplying drugs to those arranging night parties in service apartments and resorts. They seized MDMA crystals, 21 ecstasy pills worth Rs 2 lakh.

TRACKING COVID-19

DURATION OF PANDEMIC
2 YEARS, 38 DAYS

CASES REPORTED
Today: **49** | Yesterday: **45**

TALLY
Today: **39,46,270**
Yesterday: **39,46,221**

DEATHS	DISCHARGES
Today: **0**	Today: **37**
Yesterday: **0**	Yesterday: **54**

ACTIVE CASES
Today: **1,441**
Yesterday: **1,429**

POSITIVITY RATE	MORTALITY RATE
Today: **6.00%**	Today: **1.02%**
Yesterday: **6.00%**	Yesterday: **1.02%**

RECOVERY RATE
Today: **98.94%**
Yesterday: **98.94%**

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES
LAST 24 HOURS

Bengaluru Urban	**47**
Bengaluru Rural	**0**
Bagalkot	0
Ballari	0
Belagavi	0
Bidar	0
Chamarajanagar	0
Chikkaballapur	0
Chikkamagaluru	0
Chitradurga	0
Dakshina Kannada	1
Davanagere	0
Dharwad	1
Gadag	0
Hassan	0
Haveri	0
Kalaburagi	0
Kodagu	0
Kolar	0
Koppal	0
Mandya	0
Mysuru	0
Raichur	0
Ramanagara	0
Shivamogga	0
Tumakuru	0
Udupi	0
Uttara Kannada	0
Vijayapura	0
Yadgir	0

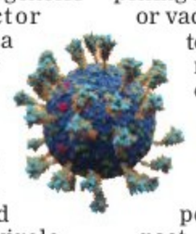
Covid-19 still a risk, can trigger large epidemics

Endemic does not mean it is over: Experts

CHETANA BELAGERE
@ Bengaluru

WHILE some virologists claim that Covid-19 has reached endemic stage, with an increase in cases in some countries and even some states in India, the World Health Organisation recently clarified that Covid-19 is far from becoming an endemic disease, and could still trigger large epidemics around the globe. Experts from the state agree, and say endemic does not mean "it's over, it's mild or not a problem".

WHO Health Emergencies Programme Director Michael Ryan, after a recent emergency meeting, said it was wrong to think that if Covid-19 becomes endemic, it will mean the end of the problem. Dr Shahid Jameel, renowned virologist and visiting professor at Ashoka University, told TNIE, "Words like 'herd immunity' and 'endemic' have entered casual conversation over the past two years. To many, they represent a beacon that will signal the end of Covid. The concept of herd immunity comes from our experience with other (mainly childhood) vaccines, wherein the vaccinated majority protects the vulnerable minority. However, this theory would work if SARS-CoV-2 infected people only once, or those vaccinated gain immunity to infection. Since we know this is not the case, it is difficult to say when the virus will become endemic."



Meanwhile, experts from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for Covid-19, formed by the state government, say this is the time to up surveillance and also increase testing.

A renowned doctor and TAC member said, "We should now expect numbers to go up in Karnataka too. But cases going up in Delhi cannot be called the onset of the fourth wave. We will probably see a majority of reinfections happening even if one is infected or vaccinated, but we need to watch out for any new variant like Delta or Omicron, which can change the way the pandemic will behave in the state," he said. Though experts say that in the past, pandemics have ended becoming endemic and seasonal influenza is a good guide, they claim it is important to understand that vaccines provide protection from severe disease and death, but wane out, so it is important to take booster doses.

"They reduce infections and virus spread, and protect the vulnerable from severe illness," said Dr Jameel. He adds that pandemics are not just biological or medical events, but also social, economic and political ones. "There is a need to balance the two and it is time to move on with life, but tread with caution," he says.

Man poses as TTE for quick bucks, held

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

A 23-year-old criminal out on bail was caught red-handed on Tuesday night when he was masquerading as a Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) on board the Yesvantpur-Gorakhpur Express. The Bhopal native, who identified himself as Prem Kumar, had been faking the role for a fortnight to earn money and spend it on his girlfriend in Bengaluru.

Kumar was nabbed at Hindupur railway station in the Bengaluru division by Railway Protection Force personnel, and has been booked under 7 sections of the Indian Penal Code. Three laptops and cash have been recovered from him.

According to railway sources, passengers were complaining for a couple of weeks about individuals in TTE uniforms or even in T-shirts of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation. "The RPF had issued written instructions to all railway department officials and those on board trains to keep a watch on any kind of suspicious behaviour by individuals posing as railway staff," said a source.

One of the TTEs attached to the Bengaluru Division found him acting strangely and when questioned he claimed to belong to the Secunderabad railway division. "He alerted the RPF as the train was nearing Hindupur railway station last night and when the cops questioned him, he fumbled and said he had left behind his identity documents in his office in Secunderabad. He claimed the three laptops belonged to him but when asked to open them, he could not do so," the source added.

On board trains in Secunderabad, the accused would claim he belonged to the Bengaluru Railway Division, and on one instance duped passengers for Rs 65,000

When the cops contacted the Commercial branch of Secunderabad, they said they did not have anyone by that name on their pay rolls. The imposter finally admitted that he been donning this role for nearly two weeks in order to make quick money. "When on board trains in Secunderabad, he used to claim he belonged to the Bengaluru Railway Division. There was one instance when he mobilised Rs 65,000 as penalty amount from passengers on board a train. He used all the money on his girlfriend in Bengaluru," another source said. He has been booked by the GRP under Sections 170, 420, 465, 468, 379, 470 and 471 of the IPC.

CRIME PATROL

Ex-serviceman's murder solved: Caretaker, four others nabbed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE decision to hire a caretaker for his bedridden mother cost Jude Theddeus alias Suresh (60), a retired armyman, his life. Jude was found murdered in his house in Domlur Layout - by the caretaker and his relatives. The accused allegedly smashed the victim's head with a blunt weapon.

The deceased was a divorcee and stayed alone. His mother passed away three years ago. However, the caretaker, identified as Babu, remained in contact with Jude. Jude had revealed about his financial status to Babu, who then hatched a plot to kill and rob Jude. "The victim had told Babu that he was purchasing a flat and was waiting to receive ₹40 lakh from a relative. Babu had a lot of debts and thought of clearing them after robbing the ex-serviceman." said an investigating officer.

> **The victim had told Babu that he was purchasing a flat and was waiting to receive ₹40 lakh from a relative. Babu had a lot of debts and thought of clearing them after robbing the ex-serviceman**
>
> Investigating officer

The remaining accused have been identified as Murali, Gajendra Nayak, Revanna Nayak and Rajendra from Andhra Pradesh. They are said to be Babu's cousins. After the murder, the accused allegedly disposed victim's mobile phone and other items in a gutter near the crime spot. Babu was also known to the victim's family members, who informed about him to Halasuru police. Further investigation into his whereabouts led to the arrest of Babu and his four relatives.

This is the second incident where a caretaker has murdered his employers for money. In a similar case, a 70-year-old retired IAF pilot Raghurajan and his wife Asha (63) were found dead in Bidadi police limits in February, this year. Their caretaker Joginder Kumar Yadav (23) was arrested for killing the elderly couple with a hammer.

SP found dead in her JP Nagar home

BENGALURU: A 59-year-old lady Superintendent of Police (SP) was found dead under mysterious circumstances at her house in Puttenahalli police limits on Friday night. The officer has been identified as Shobha Katavkar. The officer was staying in JP Nagar 5th phase. She was found dead at around 8pm by the security guard. She was recently promoted as SP and was posted to HESCOM in Hubballi. She was serving as ACP in city special branch. Her family members had gone to Hassan. When she did not answer their calls, the security guard was asked to check who found her dead. She is suspected to have died of cardiac arrest. The Puttenahalli police have registered a case of unnatural death.

APARTMENTS FOR SALE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS

PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/280222/004739	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/446/PR/210312/004002	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/181122/002151	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/472/PR/221221/004599	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/201201/003733	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/180120/001878	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/211209/004576
CHANDAPURA	**K R PURAM**	**THANISANDRA**	**RMV EXTN. 2ND STAGE**	**HOSA ROAD JUNCTION**	**THANISANDRA MAIN ROAD**	**YELAHANKA**
10 MINS. FROM NARAYANA HRUDAYALAYA	CLOSE TO GARDEN CITY UNIVERSITY	NEAR KNS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	NEAR HEBBAL	NEAR BOSCH (ELECTRONIC CITY)	NR. MANYATA TECH PARK	10 MINS. TO YELAHANKA POLICE STATION
₹ 23.77 - 37.85 Lacs*	₹ 39.36 - 68.40 Lacs*	₹ 39.24 - 41.16 Lacs*	₹ 51.10 - 64.15 Lacs*	₹ 31.00 - 34.87 Lacs*	₹ 1.11 - 1.37 Crores*	₹ 31.22 - 52.85 Lacs*
2 & 3-BHK	2 & 3-BHK	2-BHK	2 & 3-BHK	2 & 3-BHK	20 FLOORS, 3-BHK, 1853-2293 Sq. Ft.	2 & 3-BHK
₹2,800 / Sq. Ft.	₹3,800 / Sq. Ft.	READY TO OCCUPY	₹ 5,000 / Sq. Ft.	₹ 3,100 / Sq. Ft.	READY TO OCCUPY	₹3,500 / Sq. Ft.
8880 013 310	8880 438 000	8880 461 461	8880 099 344	9164 045 000	8088 779 779	8880 758 758

*Prices mentioned are base price and may vary with dimensions, floors, and availability. Brand names mentioned in this advertisement are for demarcation & not for promotion.
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JDS state president HK Kumaraswamy said on Friday that he will tender his resignation from the post of JDS state president on Sunday. Speaking to **The New Indian Express**, he said that the decision was voluntary after discussing the matter with JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda and former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy. He said that CM Ibrahim, the designated state president of JDS, will assume charge.

MISSION 2023

CONG GETS GRASP ON CORRUPTION NARRATIVE

KPCC chief DK Shivakumar, former CM Siddaramaiah and ex-KPCC chief Dinesh Gundu Rao during a protest against the BJP outside of Vidhana Soudha | EXPRESS

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@Bengaluru

THE Congress, which had sought to build a narrative against corruption in Karnataka ahead of 2023 assembly polls, drew first blood as senior BJP leader KS Eshwarappa made an exit from Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP dispensation.

When the BJP was upbeat with the sentimental issues such as hijab row, halal cut among others, the Congress had failed to score any brownie points. But this time, it was able to raise issue related to corruption which surfaced post the alleged suicide of BJP leader and contractor Santhos Patil whose last WhatsApp message pointed to corruption and harassment over his pending bills of works he had completed.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala made it a point to focus on allegations of the contractors' association about 40 per cent commission in the BJP government. Surjewala continued to attack none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the latter had declared zero-tolerance against corruption with a slogan 'na khaunga, na khane doonga' ('Won't take bribe, nor allow anyone to take bribes").

Surjewala seemingly paid the PM in the same coin of corruption, as without the latter's instructions Eshwarappa would not have resigned as he had the strong backing of RSS leaders. Surjewala, who had managed to unite the warring factions within the Congress party, set an agenda to go all out to expose issues related to corruption and create awareness about it among the people of Karnataka.

As part of a larger strategy, Congress will hold protest rallies over corruption as the main issue across the state. Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah is all set to start his five-day trip from Saturday wherein he will take part in rallies slated to be held in Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Mandya and Chamarajanagara, which will conclude in Mysuru on April.20.

"Corruption will be one of the poll planks as we had also raised issues of corruption in 'Ganga Kalyana' borewell drilling scheme, bitcoin corruption and Covid-19 management and expenses. We are not fabricating it, but going with facts over corruption. We will not leave Karnataka degenerated," Congress MLA and former minister Priyank Kharge said. He also alleged corruption in the social welfare department.

Cong teams to rally against graft

BENGALURU: When the BJP executive meeting gets under way in Vijayanagar on Saturday, the Congress will reach the venue to protest against corruption. In a major campaign, the Congress is organising itself into nine teams, and will hold protest marches in districts across the state. Opposition leader Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D K Shivakumar, who concluded their all-night protest on Friday, addressed a joint press conference in front of Vidhana Soudha, demanding the arrest of Eshwarappa. "Eshwarappa should be booked appropriately under Section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, but a case has been registered only under Sections 7A and 34 of the Act, which is inappropriate, considering the material facts of the case. The law says that in such cases, the offender should be arrested as soon as an FIR is lodged, so Eshwarappa should be arrested immediately," Siddaramaiah said.

Not a setback for govt: CM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ESHWARAPPA had until Thursday evening maintained that "there was no question of his resignation", which was duly supported by the state government as well as the RSS. However, on Thursday evening, he announced that he would tender his resignation to Chief Minister Bommai on Friday evening. Although Eshwarappa denied it, sources privy to happenings in New Delhi said the change in his stance was due to central leaders conveying to him that he should resign by citing similar incidents earlier in which ministers had quit after being embroiled in such controversies.

However, CM Bommai, who also said Eshwarappa had decided to resign on his own on moral grounds, said the resignation could not be considered as a "setback" for the state government, and reiterated that a thorough investigation would bring out the truth. He also asked the opposition Congress — which has been demanding Eshwarappa's arrest — to not act like investigators, prosecutors and judges.

This is an 'agnipariksha', will pass: KSE

I am happy to receive such affection from different quarters of society, confident of justice, he says

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

RDPR Minister KS Eshwarappa said that he is resigning as a minister as it would be inappropriate to continue in that position when an investigation against him is underway.

If found not guilty, he would be a minister again, he said, consoling his followers who asked him not to resign.

As he entered the BJP office here on Friday, Eshwarappa's supporters urged him not to resign, but he said that he has to if he wants to prove his innocence. "Everyone faces a testing time. Those who conspired might have thought that they are victorious now. I am resigning to set an example for everyone in our organisation that I will not continue in the position till proven innocent," he said.

Eshwarappa said that he had resigned as energy minister when the party asked him to and led the state unit of the party. "Today I am facing this allegation. At the same time, I am feeling happy and surprised after receiving such affection from different quarters of the society," he said.

RDPR Minister K S Eshwarappa waive to his supporters in Shivamogga before leaving for Bengaluru | SHIMOGA NANDAN

When he wanted to resign three days ago, CM Basavaraj Bommai asked him not to hurry, he claimed. "I spoke to our national leaders too. They respected my decision. Later, I announced my resignation. I am happy today not because of resigning from the ministerial berth but due to the confidence that I will be proven innocent," he said.

"This is an 'Agnipariksha' and I will pass this test. Let us give a fitting answer to those who are politicising the issue. I am requesting all my sisters not to cry or else I will not go to Bengaluru. Send me off with a smile," he requested the women supporters. Later, speaking to reporters, Eshwarappa said he is humbled by the support from former CM BS Yediyurappa, Bommai and all leaders of the party besides seers. "I am confident that I will come out of this conspiracy and will get justice," he said.

Kateel blames Cong for Patil's death

MANGALURU: Dakshina Kannada MP and state BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel on Friday lashed out at the Congress and blamed it for the death of contractor Santosh Patil. Speaking to the media after attending a hotel inauguration in Mangaluru, Kateel said that in the Santosh Patil suicide case, no death note has been recovered. "Only a message shared on WhatsApp and circulated has been accessed by the police. In Deputy SP Ganapathi's death case, why was Congress minister KJ George not arrested? Congress is behind the suicide case of Santosh Patil. An investigation is underway and the truth will be out," he said. Kateel further said that when Siddaramaiah was in power, 24 Hindu activists were killed but no action was taken. "Why was Siddaramaiah not sent to jail? he asked.

Jnanendra promises fair inquiry

SHIVAMOGGA: Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said that a fair inquiry will be conducted into the alleged suicide of contractor Santhosh Patil. Eshwarappa resigned as it would be inappropriate to continue as minister when an inquiry is being carried out against him, he said. When asked if Eshwarappa resigned buckling under pressure, Jnanendra said Eshwarappa himself clarified that he is not under any pressure. "Let us wait for the inquiry report. The allegations being made by the Congress party are not important," he said. He said that Patil's body was removed from the hotel in the presence of his relative and "the police conducted all procedures fairly. No death note was found but there was a WhatsApp message. The police are probing whether Patil sent it or someone else did."

KSE will be proved innocent: BSY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @
Shivamogga

WITH support pouring in for RDPR Minister KS Eshwarappa who is resigning after being booked for allegedly abetting the suicide of contractor Santosh Patil, former chief minister BS Yediyurappa said that Eshwarappa was quitting due to unavoidable circumstances but he will be reinstated in the Cabinet if the investigation is completed within three months.

Meanwhile, Eshwarappa's followers, in a cavalcade of vehicles, accompanied him to Bengaluru to show their support, and also an exhibition of Eshwarappa's strength.

"Even though Eshwarappa has not committed any mistake, he is resigning due to unavoidable circumstances. If the ongoing investigation is completed in two or three months, it will be clear that Eshwarappa had no role in the incident and he will be proven innocent. There will be no hindrances to induct him into the Cabinet," he said on Friday.

Eshwarappa is resigning under some pressure even though he is not at fault, he said. "Eshwarappa will face some challenges. I am confident that he will be a minister again. I pray for his welfare," he said. When asked whether Eshwarappa's resignation would be a setback to the BJP, Yediyurappa said such a question does not arise. He refused to comment when asked about allegations of Congress role in the incident. Before Eshwarappa left for Bengaluru, hundred of supporters, including many women leaders, pleaded with him to withdraw his decision to resign. Many women leaders wept, shouting slogans.

2 inspectors join probe, cops seize CCTV footage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Udupi

WITH police tight-lipped about progress into the investigation of the alleged suicide of contractor Santosh Patil at a lodge in Udupi, two police inspectors, Ananthapadmanabha of Brahmavar Circle and Sharanagowda of Malpe Circle, have been deputed to assist investigating officer Pramod Kumar, the inspector at Udupi Town police station.

Pramod Kumar has been taking inputs from various sources.

Sources said that Patil's friends, Prashanth Shetty of Byndoor and Santhosh Medappa of Kodagu, who had accompanied him on a tour of Chikkamagaluru before arriving in Udupi on April 11, were also questioned by police.

"Though they were not detained, they were summoned to the police station for questioning," police sources said.

Police have also seized CCTV recordings from the hotel where Santosh was found dead, allegedly after consuming juice mixed with poison.

Meanwhile, Dinesh, manager of Shambhavi Lodge where Santosh committed suicide, told reporters on Friday that he had booked two rooms in his own name, at 5pm on April 11. He had provided his Hindalga address. Medappa and Shetty were staying in one room, while Santosh Patil took the other room. They went for dinner after checking in, and returned at 8.59pm. Santosh Patil was carrying juice in a cover, Dinesh said.

At 10.50am the next day, his friends arrived at the lodge reception and enquired about Santosh, saying that his room, No. 207, was locked, and he was not answering their phone calls. Following this, a room boy opened the door with a spare key, and they found Santosh lying dead in a sleeping position. "We immediately informed police," Dinesh said.

Meanwhile, police had arrived at the lodge that morning, looking for Santosh Patil. They had shown his photograph but Dinesh was unable to identify him, as the address given to him by police was of Belagavi.

Police have taken away CCTV cameras and ordered that both rooms not be rented for a week, he said.

Udupi admin allows Muthalik for health tests

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @
Udupi

EVEN as Udupi DC Kurma Rao had passed an order banning Sri Rama Sene leader Pramod Muthalik's entry into the district on Friday, he visited Udupi district on Thursday. The ban was imposed as it was expected that he would make provocative speech during an event organized by Hindu Jagarana Vedike in Gangolli.

Muthalik visited Gangolli on Thursday and expressed his ire against BJP-led state government for banning him. However, Rao passed a revised order allowing Muthalik to undergo health check-up but he was restricted from participating in any public event.

Udupi SP Vishnuvardhan said that police cross-checked with the private hospital in Udupi where Muthalik claimed to have a prior appointment for his health check-up and it was confirmed.

BJP executive meeting begins today, likely to be stormy

ASHWINI M SRIPAD
@ Bengaluru

WITH the ongoing political developments in Karnataka putting the party and government to embarrassment, the two-day BJP State Executive meeting beginning Saturday in Vijayanagar district, is expected to be stormy. Former minister KS Eshwarappa's issue is likely to dominate the core committee meeting, which is part of the executive meeting.

BJP National President JP Nadda, National General Secretary (Org) BL Santhosh, National General Secretary and in-charge for Karnataka Arun Singh, along with Union Ministers from Karnataka, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, BJP State President Nalin Kumar Kateel, and other ministers and leaders from Karnataka will take part in the event.

With assembly elections next year, the BJP is facing a number of sensitive issues, including hijab, halal cut, Muslim vendors and others, which could backfire. The opposition Congress and JDS are taking up these issues, and protesting across the state.

Arrangements for BJP state executive committee meeting at Hosapete

Recently, Bommai had told reporters in New Delhi that cabinet expansion was due after the executive meeting. Nadda had reportedly told Bommai that he would discuss it further when he reached Karnataka to attend the state executive meeting.

At present, of 34 ministerial berths, 30 are filled, including Bommai. Now, with Eshwarappa announcing his resignation, five berths are vacant. "Party leaders want to discuss it at the core committee meeting on Saturday evening or Sunday. The proposed list of names to be inducted into the cabinet might not be announced," BJP sources said.

The meeting will pass many resolutions, mainly appreciating the Union government for Operation Ganga to bring back Indians from the Ukraine war zone, besides giving the thumbs-up to Bommai's budget, and Vidyanidhi, the scholarship scheme for children of farmers which has been extended to children of weavers and fishermen.

Meanwhile, though BJP teams led by Yediyurappa and others are travelling across the state to strengthen the party, the central leadership is unhappy about the latest developments. BJP State General Secretary N Ravikumar told TNIE they would discuss issues related to poll strategy and party developments.

Pension will be given in 72 hrs: Revenue minister

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS@
Achivae (Uttara Kannada)

REVENUE Minister R Ashok has said that a new pension programme will ensure pension and pension certificate within 72 hours to be delivered at the door steps of the beneficiaries. A 'Hello' and submitting Aadhaar number and bank account number will be enough to get pension, he said, during his Grama vastavaiya (village stay) at Achivae gram panchayat.

The details will reach the official concerned in 15 minutes and will be processed. " The village assistants will go to their houses immediately, take their pictures and other details and will upload it. The beneficiary will get the pension certificate," he informed, adding that the scheme will be launched at the earliest. Appreciating the Grama Vastavya programme, he said that officials and people's representatives across the state are staying in villages and helping the villagers with required documents.

PRICES SOAR

Farmers bank on cotton again, but seeds in short supply

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

COTTON growers in Karnataka, who hit the jackpot last season, selling their crop for record-high prices, are running from pillar to post to get high-yield variety of cotton seeds. Farmers in the Heggadevanakote, Saragur, Nanjangud, Gundlupet belt who grow cotton on more than 47,000 hectares, are anticipating that prices will shoot up this year too, and have made all preparations to take up cotton cultivation.

Following heavy pre-monsoon showers, they hope to complete sowing, and are queuing up in front of agro shops for cotton seeds that are in high demand. A few farmers have also shelled out Rs 1,300 for a 700-gm sachet of cotton seeds, that sold for Rs 750 last year. While there are more than 10 varieties of cotton seeds in the market, farmers opt for BT-Cotton seeds or other high-yield variety.

Ashok, a farmer from Saragur, has been doing the rounds of agro shops on Ramavilas and Seetha Vilas roads and other places for three days, to get hybrid seeds. He said the

Puli brand is not available, and managed to get it by paying a hefty price of Rs 1,300 per sachet. "Having learnt that I had managed to get it, more than 10 farmers have been waiting at the shop for two days, and hope to get it by Monday," he said.

Nagaraj, a farmer, said they are ready to start sowing, once they get seeds and rain. The area of cultivation has increased two-fold in the region, as many farmers who suffered huge losses in ginger cultivation want to try cotton, as the government has started a cotton market in Saragur. Textile mill owners and merchants from Tamil Nadu are also purchasing raw cotton from the fields, offering good rates.

Farmer leader CA Nanjundaswamy said the government, which supplied cotton seeds in the past, has moved out after many private players entered the market, and BT-Cotton made inroads into the region. He said the agriculture department has failed to ensure seeds at affordable prices. He charged that there is a nexus between the agriculture department and other departments, as officials have failed to conduct surprise checks, raid and seize stocks, and cancel their trade licence for selling seeds at exorbitant rates. The farmers fear that skyrocketing prices of seeds and agriculture inputs will enhance the cost of cultivation by Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000 per acre.

JDS to launch Janata Jaladhare today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

At a time when the Congress and BJP are on the warpath over corruption, the JDS will be engaging its rank and file to focus on water-related issues and launch its 'Janata Jaladhare' campaign on Saturday. JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda will collect water from Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) in Mandya, while former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy will visit Almatti dam. "If JDS is voted to power with a full mandate, we will implement all pending river water projects in the stipulated time," Kumaraswamy stated. As part of the programme, water from as many as 15 rivers will be collected simultaneously -- Anita Kumaraswamy at Mekedatu in Kanakapura taluk, HD Revanna at Hemavathy in Hassan, Nikhil at Vidhurashwatha in Chikkaballapura, Bandeppa Kashempur at Manjra river, Naganagouda Kundakura at Bhima, Venkatarao Nadagouda at TB Dam, Sa Ra Mahesh at Talacauvery in Kodagu, H K Kumaraswamy at Yettinahole and Ashwinkumar at Kabini.

Around 20 trucks loaded with paddy were stopped at the Dachepalli check post on the inter-state border in Palnadu district, Andhra Pradesh on Friday, as the Telangana government has started procuring paddy from farmers amid a standoff with the Centre. The truck drivers said they were denied entry even though they had all the relevant documents

Stalin: TN govt ready to send supplies to Sri Lanka

Chief Minister writes to External Affairs Minister, seeks approval

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

TAMIL Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday interacted with the Lankan Tamils who have taken shelter at Mandapam camp in Ramanathapuram district due to the economic crisis in Sri Lanka and enquired about their needs. Besides, he also renewed his request for Union Government's permission for sending humanitarian aid including food grains, vegetables, medicines, etc., to Tamils in Lanka through Thoothukudi port.

To date, 39 Lankan Tamils belonging to 13 families have reached Tamil Nadu by sea. This includes 11 men, 11 women and 17 children including an infant. They have been given shelter at the Mandapam camp and essential commodities and food are being supplied to them. During his interaction with them through video conference from the Secretariat, the Chief Minister enquired about their needs and well-being.

The Chief Minister, in his letter to the External Affairs Minister on Friday, reiterated the willingness of his government to ship essential supplies to Sri Lanka since the Union government has now enabled the shipping of food and other essential commodities to the country.

Stalin said humanitarian aid would be sent from Thoothukudi port to the Lankan Tamils living in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka and Colombo, as well as those working in plantations. "I request that this may be facilitated at the earliest in view of the worsening situation in Sri Lanka," he added.

Stalin also brought to the notice of the External Affairs Minister the plight of the 12 Indian fishermen, who were apprehended on March 23. The Killinochchi court that tried the case has adjourned the case to May 12 with the instructions that the fishermen could be released on bail on a personal bond of LKR 2 crore per person.

Porus fire: 3 workers still serious

ENS @ Vijayawada

The health condition of three workers out of the 12 who received severe burns in the fire mishap at Porus Laboratories remain critical on Friday.

All the injured were undergoing treatment at Andhra Hospitals at Gollapudi in Vijayawada city after the Vijayawada GGH officials referred them to a private hospital for better treatment. It may be recalled that six persons were killed in the major fire accident that occurred in the pharmaceutical intermediates and chemical manufacturing unit of Porus Laboratories Pvt Ltd. in Akkireddygudem village in Eluru district, AP, on Wednesday late hours.

CROWN FOR GLORY

TTD chairman YV Subba Reddy presents gold crowns to Sri Kodandaramaswamy temple on the occassion of Sri Kodandaramaswamy Kalyanam at Vontimitta in Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh | EXPRESS

Impact of strike felt across B'luru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ITS impact was already seen in most parts of Bengaluru on the first day where services was hit in areas like BTM Layout, HSR, RR Nagar, Katriguppe, Jalahalli and Kenergi. Members of the union are gradually extending their strike to across Karnataka. The Union has one lakh workers and most of them have shown solidarity to be a part of the strike.

Chetan a food delivery partner, who is finding it difficult to make ends meet said: "The imbroglio is prompted by the new payment system introduced around a month back. The new system called as gigs has brought down the earnings by 30 per cent and has increased the working hours. Despite repeated requests this was not addressed, so now we decided to go on a strike," he said.

Sarathi said earlier an FDP could log off when it was not a suitable time, but now after slots have been introduced, the dynamics change.

Swiggy spokesperson said, "Although we have heard rumours of an upcoming strike, we have been assured that our partners are not going to take part and the strike is limited only to Zomato partners. We are not planning on implementing anything related to time slotting for FDPs and will not be reducing earnings of the partners."

A spokesperson from Zomato said revisions have been introduced and it seems to a be case of misunderstanding. The changes have been introduced to help students and those in other streams. The issues will be clarified with the FDPs, the spokesperson said.

COPS CRACK DOWN ON ILLEGAL WATER SPORTS

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @ Ganeshgudi (Uttara Kannada)

THE Joida police began the crackdown on all illegal water sports organisers on Friday after a suo moto was registered against Kali Adventure, the company whose raft capsized due to overloading.

The boat used to rescue the occupants of the capsized raft at Ganeshgudi on Thursday | EXPRESS

The entire Joida administration has sprung into action after a news report of a raft being stuck amidst rock in the fast flowing River Kali appeared in TNIE. The Joida police inspector, according to the police sources, stopped all the aqua sports activities in the morning today. " Every sports organising company has been scrutinised since morning. The Circle Inspector, Joida had stationed himself in Ganeshgudi to personally check the licence for operating Aqua sports.

Speaking to Express, DySP, Dandeli Ganesh said that a case has been registered based on the social media post which has gone viral. "There is no complainant as such. We have got the social media posts and have registered the case. We have also seized a boat," he said.

He added that the boat during the rapid action dropped down in an imbalanced manner. "This might be because it had persons more than its capacity. This resulted in the accident," he said.

He said that the tourist's names and address will be collected and their version will be taken for probe. He said that the people were rescued in time and a great mishap has been averted.

Postal dept to accept digital payment

S. LALITHA @ Bengaluru

A major relief is in store for those visiting major post offices from today. Bowing to public demand, 56 Head Post Offices (HO) spread across Karnataka, including seven in Bengaluru, will now begin to accept Quick Response (QR) code payment for all transactions. Until now, only cash or digital payment using the India Post Payment Bank was permitted.

The digital change form a part of an all-India roll out of the system with nearly 800 HO's set to accept the payment method.

With the QR system becoming a common mode of payment, public faced difficulties on a daily basis when they land up at post offices only to be told to bring cash. However, debit and credit cards will still not be accepted due to non-purchase of point of sale machines.

Speaking to The New Indian Express, Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Postal Circle, S Rajendra Kumar said, "There was a huge public demand to incorporate this service. It was to be launched a few weeks later. But we have sped up the process. Initially 56 Head Post Offices under which the GPO also is included, will offer the service. We plan to cover the remaining post offices in future."

The busy packaging section of the General Post Office where public would often bring bulk material for booking is often a scene of angry arguments with staffers insisting on cash only payments. S. Premalatha, who booked a consignment to Sydney recently from the GPO, had to pay Rs 6,560 for delivery charges. With card payment too not accepted, she had to climb down the flight of stairs here, go to the Punjab National Bank ATM just outside the office, withdraw cash, come back all the way and queue up again. She told TNIE, "These days, no one I know carries Rs 7,000 cash on hand as all pay digitally or through cards. I was totally shocked at this refusal on the part of the postal department to keep up with the times." She added, "This really makes a joke of the Digital India concept being publicised everywhere." Another customer in the queue, Rajesh Subramaniam said, "Even our neighbourhood tea shop or even a flower seller accepts the QR code payment. How is such an important Central government department not accepting it?"

Initially 56 Head Post Offices under which the GPO also is included, will offer the service. We plan to cover the remaining post offices in future — S Rajendra Kumar, Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Postal Circle

Dubbed KGF-2 highest Malayalam grosser

COTNTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"WE foresaw it even before we bought the rights of the film and were confident audience would love the second part even more than the first." He went on to share an impressive statistic: "The second part has recovered the lifetime collection of the first film in Tamil Nadu, and it has done this in just one day. I am confident that this is the same in other languages as well."

Manoj Desai, executive director of G7 Multiplex and Maratha Mandir Cinema in Mumbai, painted a picture of happiness. "Almost 1,000 seats, across both our screens, are already sold out for the weekend. The film has performed exceedingly well and the positive reviews have helped too."

A reduction in Covid cases, relaxation of mask mandates and early morning shows have all all combined to result in increased footfalls. "The shows on our property began as early as 4 am and we have scheduled nine shows in all. The early shows have a higher fare because of the flexible ticket pricing option," shared Kavitha, manager of Mukta A2 Cinemas, Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, the Malayalam dubbed version of the film, distributed by actor Prithviraj Sukumaran, has reportedly dethroned Mohanlal's Odiyan to become the highest-grossing film in the language by grossing ₹7.2 crores on the first day. And yet, distributor and the president of the Tamil Nadu Theatres' Association president, Tirupur Subramaniam, stated that Vijay's Beast continues to lead the box office race in Tamil Nadu for the moment.

Legal literacy awareness a necessity: Justice Oka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

JUSTICE Abhay Shreeniwas Oka, Judge of Supreme Court, on Friday said that it is absolutely necessary to have large scale legal literacy programmes at all levels of society to create awareness about provisions of law, criminal law in particular, as even educated citizens criticise the judges on social media when a judge grants bail or acquittal, without realising how the justice delivery system works.

He was delivering the valedictory address at the silver jubilee celebrations of Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA) held at Karnataka Judicial Academy in city.

He said that there is a complete lack of knowledge about the justice delivery system in the country. Without realising how the justice delivery system works, "we face a lot of criticism. In this area, we need to work more, not only members of the Bar but also para legal volunteers, to create awareness", he said.

Lauding the works done by the the KSLSA on various public interest issues, Justice Oka said that the Legal Services Authorities (LSAs) are under obligation to ensure the commitment to fundamental rights under Article 51A of the Constitution of India, as so far no measures have been taken by them on this issue.

He said that twelve former high court judges were given responsibilities of implementing various schemes of NALSA and government in the state. Now time has come to see that through the LSAs, such disputes which are not normally settled before the courts are settled. These include commercial suites, matrimonial suites, partition suites, specific performance suites which consume a lot of time of the court. Hence, KALSA can switch to such cases and give more relief to litigants and judiciary as a whole, he said.

EXPRESS READ

Doing my utmost for judges' security, says CJI

HYDERABAD : Chief Justice of India Justice NV Ramana on Friday said that he was making all-out efforts to fill all the vacancies in the judiciary and improve judicial infrastructure besides addressing the issue of judges' security. Speaking at the inaugural of the Telangana State Judicial Officers Conference 2022 here, the CJI asked the judicial officers to perform their duties without any fear. "I am aware of the increasing number of physical attacks taking place on judges. I am doing my utmost to prevent such occurrences. I have issued directions to beef up security for judicial officials both inside and outside the courtrooms," he said. The CJI advised the judicial officers in districts to create a congenial environment for the litigants. "The litigants would be under a lot of stress and we should try to make them feel at ease. Always remember the human aspect in the disputes," he added.

QuoteExpress

BE KIND WHENEVER POSSIBLE. IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE > DALAI LAMA

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my client Sri.Srinivasa. L S/o Lakshmanappa R/at No.77, 1st C Main, Ittamadu, Manjunathanagar, Banashakari 3rd stage, Bengaluru-560 085, has entered into a registered sale agreement dated 16-11-2021, to purchase the "Schedule Property", from Sri. Nagaraju.M S/o H.C.Mayappa, R/a Binnamangala village, Devanahalli Taluk Bangalore Rural Dist.

Any person having any right in or title to or claim against the schedule properties or having any objection of whatsoever nature to the proposed transaction may, within 15 (Fifteen) days hereof, lodge with the undersigned, their claim in this behalf together with the relevant documentary proof in support of such right, title, interest or claim or objection. If no such objection or claim is received within the above period, my client will presume that, no person has any such claim and will proceed with the transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural property bearing Sy. No.72/1 New NO.72/5, measuring 1 acre 23 guntas, situated at Rajagatta Village Doddaballapura Taluk Bangalore Rural District and bounded as follows:-

East by : Dasagondanahalli Boundary Road,
West by : Property belongs to Doddamuniyappa,
North by : Doddaballapura and Chikkaballapur main Road,
South by : Property belongs to Kondappa

C.V. ANNAIAH, Advocate
No.72/15, "G" Floor, BTS Main Road, Wilson Garden Bangalore-560 030
Ph: 9448316104

EDITORIAL

> Looking for success, I stooped low. ... Carried away by desire, my heart went roaming and no one could stop me ... O what could I do now? The Lord with a discus who took the form of a boar, with his grace, he did save me
>
> Thirumangai Azhwar

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

CORRUPTION CHARGES CHANGE KARNATAKA NARRATIVE IN POLL YEAR

Caught in a cleft stick over allegations of corruption against its senior minister K S Eshwarappa, the BJP took the route of propriety: It asked him to resign, despite strong backing by the Karnataka state unit and the RSS. By doing so, it took the sting out of the opposition campaign against the government, and also distanced itself from corruption charges. More importantly, it kept the prime minister's image intact in an election year. While the party cannot afford to do without its strong Kuruba leader in the battle for the Assembly next year, it will, no doubt, make all attempts to clear him of charges just in time for the polls. Eshwarappa, the pro-Hindutva leader who has earned the reputation of stoking communal controversies and shooting off his mouth at regular intervals, has, by and large, remained unchecked. Even allegations of 40% commission by contractor Santosh Patil—one of the BJP's own—had failed to spur the Basavaraj Bommai government into initiating a probe. Unable to get his payment released or evoke any promise of action despite approaching the BJP central leadership, Patil finally blamed Eshwarappa and his aides, and ended his life.

The suicide and the charges levelled by Patil's family have changed the political narrative in Karnataka. A belligerent ruling party, which was creaming the benefits of a string of communal issues raked up by its fringe, has been pushed on to the backfoot. No doubt, this will give a thrust to the Congress, which appears to have suddenly revived itself and plunged into poll mode with a series of protests against rising prices and communal polarisation. The Congress has grabbed the '40%' catchword with glee, for the Siddaramaiah government was once labelled a '10% government' by the PM. Eshwarappa appears to have willingly handed the opposition an unforgiving stick to beat the BJP with. The 73-year-old leader, a committed ABVP student leader and RSS activist who went on to hold ministerial portfolios in a career spanning more than three decades, had nursed ambitions of chief ministership too, but had to stay a step behind old friend and recent rival, Lingayat strongman B S Yediyurappa. Whether the incriminating suicide will push Eshwarappa into the political boondocks is debatable, but the BJP will do its best to avoid an albatross in a crucial election year.

POWER SECTOR REFORMS A MUST IN TN

Nearly 12 years after Tamil Nadu issued a government order to reform the power sector, plans are afoot now for a giant recast. Though TANGEDCO (state-run company managing generation and distribution utilities) and TANTRANSCO (managing transmission) were created in November 2010 by splitting the erstwhile Electricity Board, the sector continued to be under generous political patronage. While all major industrialised states in India marched ahead with reforms, TN remained a laggard. The paltry average tariff for domestic consumers of ₹2.20 per unit, way below the average purchase cost of ₹5–6, tells us how various governments have shied away from raising the tariff since 2014 for the fear of a political backlash. With the demand for electricity shooting up, the Stalin government is treading cautiously on the reform process. Nightmares of long load-shedding and power outages that led to ouster of the previous DMK government in 2011 still haunt the party.

The political patronage over the years has led to a massive accumulated loss, currently at ₹81,000 crore even after the government's efforts to bring it down. The outstanding debt stands at ₹1.34 lakh crore. Obviously, the free electricity provided to all farmers and the low-end domestic consumers who utilise fewer than 100 units has been a major drag on the state exchequer. In the recent Budget, TN's finance minister allocated over ₹22,000 crore, including ₹13,108 crore for absorbing 100% of TANGEDCO's losses, and another ₹9,120 crore for providing free power to farmers and domestic consumers, and subsidised electricity to the power-loom industry. Clearly, the government can't afford to be so generous if it hopes to build more power plants to meet the rising demand. A team of consultants, led by EY India, is working with the profusely bleeding state-run power companies to find a way out. If they focus on renewable power and debt restructuring, it will surely yield some positive result. The government has made a successful attempt at bringing down the loss, but it faces a Herculean task ahead.

Rather than a static come-to-me model, health services need to reach households. Our frontline workers are capable of doing that with adequate training and support

DELIVERING COMPREHENSIVE PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

DR K SRINATH REDDY

Cardiologist, epidemiologist and President, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)

SOUMYADIP SINHA

Ayushman Bharat has become the integrative platform for most of the health programmes in the country. When launched in 2018, it had two major components—Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) through Health And Wellness Centres (HWCs) and healthcare financing for hospitalised care of economically vulnerable segments of the population via Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).

In 2021, two more missions were launched, under the umbrella of Ayushman Bharat, to expand health services and enhance the quality of care. These are the Health Infrastructure Mission and the Digital Health Mission. They augment and enable the two service delivery arms of Ayushman Bharat and contribute to strengthening of the overall architecture and performance of the health system.

The first Health And Wellness Centre (HWC) was launched by the prime minister at Jangla, Bijapur in Chhattisgarh on 14 April 2018. While primary health centres (PHCs) and sub-centres were a longstanding feature of India's rural health services, the HWC proclaimed a new agenda centred around CPHC. This was a shift from selective primary care, which was the track on which the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) travelled before it graduated to the National Health Mission (NHM) by adding an urban component.

CPHC, to be delivered through upgraded sub-centres and PHCs, is intended to cover a wide array of health services, addressing a majority of the basic health needs of the population. Earlier, the NRHM was geared towards delivering services related to maternal and child health besides a few major infectious diseases. This menu was aligned to the limited health agenda of the Millennium Development Goals of 2000. Only about 15% of the many health needs of primary care were met through these focused but restricted set of services.

By adding services related to a wide range of non-communicable and communicable diseases, mental health, addictive disorders, health promotion, yoga and rehabilitation, CPHC aims to expand the ambit of care. Essential drugs will be provided and basic diagnostic tests would be performed at HWCs. Tele-health services will link them to specialist evaluation and guidance.

The ethos of primary healthcare is to provide comprehensive, continuous and connected care for a wide variety of common health conditions, while promoting health and preventing disease. The mandate encompasses early detection of health disorders and their risk factors, prompt initiation of effective care at home or near home, connection to specialist care when needed by tele-health or referral to secondary or tertiary care facilities, while ensuring continuity of care for the majority who need only primary care or return from advanced care. A wide range of promotive and preventive services, from immunisation, health and nutrition literacy to tobacco and alcohol control need to be a prominent part of primary care.

Such a description should not lead to a misconception, as often happens with health system managers, that primary care is mainly or only facility-based, which requires people to approach them for healthcare. Rather than such a static come-to-me model, health services need to reach households. Our frontline workers are capable of doing that, with adequate training and support from easy-to-handle health technologies. Apart from antenatal services and child care, even care of chronic conditions like hypertension and diabetes can be effectively delivered by them. Point-of-care diagnostics can also enable many tests to be performed at home.

> We need more technology-enabled frontline health workers, doctors trained in family medicine and dedicated public health management cadre to deliver the agenda of primary care. This cannot happen without adequate investments in infrastructure, human resources, drugs and supplies, appropriate technologies, etc.

Healthcare must also connect with communities. If services are designed and delivered with active community engagement, they have a better chance of success. The community also enables alignment of multi-sectoral actions to health goals by promoting coherence and convergence. Water, sanitation, road safety and pollution control are obvious examples. Disease surveillance too is efficient in providing early alerts and effective in containment if communities are engaged. Flow of primary care funds to rural and urban local bodies, as recommended by the Fifteenth Finance Commission, provides them the opportunity and resources to drive health-friendly development.

CPHC needs to overcome the segmented-by-age and fragmented-by-disease approach of selective primary care advocated and driven by donors. To provide a life-course approach that addresses varying health priorities that surface at different ages, primary care needs to look at the family as a unit and home as a key locale of care. That will also promote a combination of self care and family-assisted care. 'Healthy Homes In Healthy Communities' must become the guiding vision of CPHC.

This cannot happen without adequate investments in infrastructure, human resources, drugs and supplies, appropriate technologies and efficient governance. We need more technology-enabled frontline health workers, doctors trained in family medicine and dedicated public health management cadre to deliver the agenda of primary care. As we move towards realising the vision of establishing 1,50,000 HWCs, we must ensure that each of them functions to their full potential. For now, we can draw satisfaction from the fact that primary healthcare has finally emerged from the shadows of neglect to the centre stage of health policy.

(Views are personal)
(ksrinath.reddy@phfi.org)

A MIGHTY GUPTA-ERA MASTERPIECE FROM MP

SRINIVAS SISTLA

Associate Professor, Department of Fine Arts, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam

Eran in Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh, contains a red sandstone sculpture of Varaha, which stands as a milestone in Indian art for many reasons. It is a round and freestanding work of magnificent scale (11 feet in height). The divinity is shown in the theriomorphic form of a wild boar and Bhudevi (Goddess of Earth) is depicted as a graceful woman. When demon Hiranyaksha hides the Goddess in the ocean, God Vishnu takes his third incarnation of Varaha, kills the demon and lifts her up. To grasp the innumerable figures on the Eran Varaha, some of which still remain unidentified, a viewer has to take a *pradakshina* (circumambulation) round the spectacular sculpture, and move the head up and down.

The body of Varaha is covered with rows of standing figures of bearded rishis wearing thick robes, hair plaited into a bun on the head. They carry water pots in the left hand and the right is placed either in *abhaya mudra* (reassurance) or *vismaya mudra* (wonder). At the front of the boar's body, the rishis are shown up to the knees, and at the back only the heads. Such a delineation clearly hints that Varaha has lifted up Bhudevi completely, but the rishis are still emerging step by step. The chest bears the seven planets, which have been enumerated in the early texts. The same, in my opinion, clearly suggests that the work represents the *Visvarupa* (Universal Form) of Varaha, whose chest has surpassed the planets in the sky. The floor carved with patterns of waves, serpents and the like denotes the ocean. Originally, this sacred image must have been in a four-pillared open *mantapa* (pavilion), which enabled devotees to have a glimpse of the deity from all directions.

Varaha is garlanded with a broad necklace that has 28 roundels with figures, which to the best of my knowledge remain unidentified. Each ear bears flying Gandharvas, and the snout a woman with her hands on the hips that might represent *Vak* (speech). The mouth displays human-like square rows of teeth, instead of the snuggle-tooth of a boar. The tongue emerges delicately from the mouth as if to affectionately lick the woman on the snout. The sculpture also includes a male divinity, now mostly destroyed, but interpreted as Vishnu. The nape of Varaha bears a unique square block with four seated figures, which are badly damaged and remain unidentified.

Wild boars have relatively slender legs, but the Eran Varaha has bulky ones, which remind me of the legs of an elephant. Technically, the massive legs have enabled the sculpture to remain intact till now. Further, ancient Indian literature draws an interesting analogy between the wild boar and the elephant. For instance, in Allasani Peddana's poem in Telugu, the *Manu Charitra* (c. 1517 CE), a tribal man meets King Swarochi and describes boars in the forest. The stanzas, in my translation, go as follows: "O king! What can I say about the boars' strength? They topple easily ripe bamboos with their snout, bend them as if they were pith, and grab the bamboo rice grains, and chew them at the corners of their foamy mouths; they are indeed elephants without trunks." The *Markandeya Purana* in Sanskrit (pre-Gupta/Gupta era) contains Manu's legend, and the Eran Varaha was created in the same period. The *Purana* may or may not contain the same analogy; nevertheless in India, the boars must have been viewed as "elephants without trunks" since ages.

The Eran Varaha inscription mentions the divinity by name Narayana and states that the image was consecrated in c. 510 CE by Dhanya Vishnu, the great grandson of Indra Vishnu, who was an exponent of the Maitryana School of the *Yajur Veda*. In the same year, King Toramana (c. 493–513/15 CE) of the nomadic Huna clan had occupied the region after defeating Goparaja, the feudatory of King Bhanugupta (c. 510 CE). Earlier in 485 CE, during the reign of Buddhagupta (476–495 CE), Dhanya Vishnu and his elder brother, Maharaja Matr Vishnu, had erected the *Dhvajastambha* (stone banner column of 13 metre height), which bears two addorsed figures of Garuda in human form with a pair of wings, a serpent in the hands and a wheel between both the heads.

Erecting pillars for religious and political reasons has been an ancient custom; Varaha in the form of boar with innumerable figures and forms on the body was indeed new then in Indian art, and was replicated elsewhere later, mainly in Madhya Pradesh. Dhanya Vishnu's inscription reads, "Om! Victorious is the God, who has the form of Yajna Varaha, who in the act of lifting the Earth, caused the mountains to tremble with the blows of the strong snout; (and) who is the pillar of the house that is the three worlds." The Eran Varaha masterpiece, in my opinion, made Dhanya Vishnu a *dhanya jeevi* (blessed living being).

(sistlasrini@gmail.com)

(L) Varaha sculpture in Eran, MP (Gupta era, c. 510 CE); (R) Garuda pillar in Eran (485 CE)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Charges are serious

This is with reference to *BJP top brass pushes KSE to quit* (Apr 15). Karnataka minister K S Eshwarappa had been skating on thin ice ever since his name cropped up in a suicide note left by a civil contractor, who had alleged that the politician had refused to clear his bills as he had not acceded to his demand for a 40% cut. The minister, who has often been mired in controversy for his propensity to stir the communal cauldron, has now landed in deep trouble. Though he initially tried to brazen it out, a nudge from the high command left him with no option but to put in his papers. Eshwarappa, one of the stalwarts of the state BJP and along with the likes of B S Yediyurappa and the late Ananth Kumar, built the party from scratch. But since the charges are serious, the party might not walk the extra mile to save him and risk embarrassment in the process.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Corruption in governance

The death of a civil contractor in Karnataka who in his suicide note has directly blamed the minister for demanding kickbacks to release funds, which forced him to take the extreme step, shows the despondency of the common man and the rot of corruption that is prevalent in the governance system. The audacity of the minister to try to cling on to power shows how entitled our politicians are. An impartial probe needs to be initiated, and if found guilty, stringent punishment must be meted out. It would serve as a deterrent for all corrupt politicians.

Biju C Mathew, Thiruvananthapuram

Time is running out

The editorial *Time to grapple with climate change is now* (Apr 15) is apt. This newspaper had earlier published a statistics-packed report on Chennai (Mar 2). The predictions made therein, if they were to come true, would be awful. The time is fast running out. If due course correction is not done and remedial measures are not initiated and completed, the country will struggle.

R Sampath, Chennai

State govt to blame

While your editorial advice (*End Guv-CM Tussle in Telangana*, Apr 14) is welcome, it's only KCR and his colleagues who are squarely to blame for the cold war between the Governor and the CM. While the Governor had her bona fide reasons to hold back the hurried nomination of a Congress defector to the Legislative Council, the multiple acts of defiance on the part of the TRS government against her—not providing official reception, the absence of the CM or his ministers at the Ugadi festivities at Raj Bhavan, ignoring her visits to Yadadri and Bhadrachalam and others—are glaring.

U Atreya Sarma, Hyderabad

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Yashwant Sinha @YashwantSinha
Bharatiya Janata Party's fact finding delegations are only West Bengal and other non-BJP ruled states. BJP ruled states are already swarg.

Randeep Singh Surjewala @rssurjewala
India ranks 101 in 'Global Hunger Index'. There was a loss of 5 to 10 quintals per acre in wheat, income did not double. Trying to feed your false 'image'!

Mehbooba Mufti @MehboobaMufti
The vengeance with which BJP is bulldozing India's Constitution has now reached the homes of minorities. BJP leaders are outdoing each other

Fourth wave is unlikely: Experts

Although Covid numbers in India are rising again, specialists feel there is no need to panic

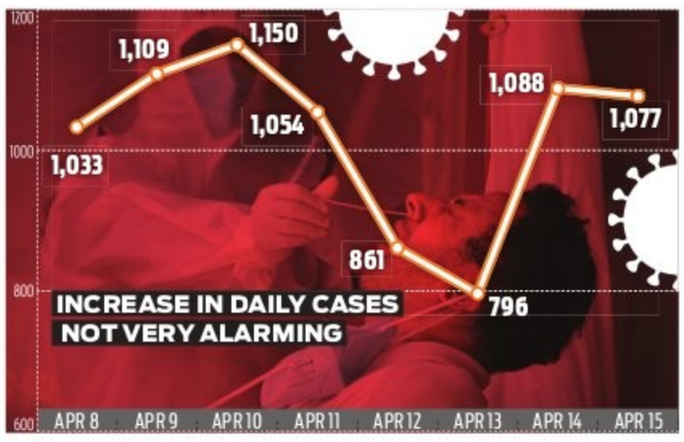
KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

HEALTH experts sought to dispel fear of an impending Covid wave in India, saying the gradual rise in infections in the past one week was due to the lifting of restrictions.

The recent spurt of cases as seen in some states like Delhi, Haryana, Gujarat, Kerala, and Mizoram is just a fluctuation, they said, asserting that there was no need to panic.

"It's a small fraction, less than 1 per cent. Based on this, one can't say a wave as it will lead to panic," said Dr J P Muliyil, a member of the Covid working group of the National Technical Advisory Group (NTAGI) on Immunisation.

None of the schoolchildren, who are testing positive for Covid, are getting hospitalised, he said. "Schoolchildren were not infected earlier during the third Omicron wave. This will ensure that they will get immunity." There is a "slight increase" in Covid cases which is not due to a new variant, Muliyil said. "It is Omicron only."



When you lift restrictions, there will be an increase in numbers. India is reporting 1,000-1,200 cases a day. Some states show 100-150. We should not create panic —Prof Manindra Agrawal, IIT Kanpur

Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) president Prof KS Reddy said it was too early to talk about a wave. "While there can be some spike in cases with a fully open society, a wave of serious cases is unlikely in the next six-eight weeks unless a virulent variant emerges."

He said one must distinguish between mild or asymptomatic infections and severe cases when considering a fresh wave. "The latter is unlikely, based on present immunity levels in the population and the nature of circulating variants. We still need to keep a watch and adopt safety measures to reduce our exposure to the virus."

In March, researchers at IIT-Kanpur predicted that the fourth wave may start around June 22 and peak from mid to late August. But the government had said then that the claims need to be examined.

According to Prof Manindra Agrawal of IIT-Kanpur, it is inevitable that a slight increase in Covid cases will be observed. "The gradual increase was bound to happen. The moment you lift restrictions, there will be an increase in numbers. We have to wait and see. In many countries, the same happened. There was an increase in numbers, and then it started dropping," said Agrawal, who is in charge of the IIT-Kanpur CII Risk Surveillance Centre.

"India is reporting 1,000-1,200 cases a day. Some states show 100-150 cases, which is a minimal number. We should not create panic," he told this daily.

Fight against Parkinson's by letting the body play

ANKITA UPADHYAY @ New Delhi

A third generation patient suffering from Parkinson's has scripted a success story. With the help of sports, he has restricted the incurable disease to a limit wherein he can lead a normal life.

Pramesh Ratnakar is 64. He used to teach English in Delhi University. His inclination towards various sports activities helped him cope after being detected with the disease in 2013.

In a recent event involving All India Institute of Medical Sciences doctors and patients, Ratnakar played badminton against a senior doctor. He lost, but it was evident that his will to fight has not.

Parkinson's is a progressive neuro disorder which primarily affects movement due to the loss of specific brain cells. "It started with a frozen shoulder. The first identifiable symptom was foot drag. I couldn't walk normally. Second, my handwriting went for a toss. I was losing control of my hand. I began exercising my hands, elbows, wrists, palms. My father and grandfather had the same condition. I had seen them struggle. After some research, I increased the amount of physical activity on a daily basis," Ratnakar says.

In India, around 20-30 per 1 lakh persons are affected by Parkinson's. The condition gets progressively worse for almost all of them. According to Achal Kumar Srivastava, head of the movement disorder section at AIIMS's Department of Neurology, Ratnakar is an example in a country where Parkinson's is not controlled well. He says Ratnakar's liking for sports helped him put a check on the disease. "As life expectancy is increasing, we are at a risk of witnessing an increase in the number of patients suffering from Parkinson's." Dr Rupa Rajan, Assistant Professor of Neurology at AIIMS, says medication is important but "physical activity has some kind of neuro protective effect."

Dr Satish Chandra, former director of NIMHANS in Bengaluru, says, "Playing tennis, badminton, running marathons and cycling are activities my patients find comfortable doing."

Ratnakar has become a role model. "I treat Parkinson's as a game. I use my imagination to come up with solutions to the challenges." He has also delivered motivational speeches to other patients.

Hawking place not for storing stuff overnight: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Supreme Court has said in a recent order that hawkers have no right to say that they may be permitted to keep their goods and wares at the place of hawking overnight.

The order was passed by a bench comprising Justice MR Shah and Justice BV Nagarathna. The apex court was hearing a petition filed by a hawker operating in Sarojini Nagar Market in New Delhi, challenging a Delhi High Court order.

"The prayer before the high court was that the petitioner, a hawker in Sarojini Nagar Market, be permitted to leave his goods and wares at the place of hawking overnight. The prayer has been rightly rejected by the high court. Any hawker can be permitted to hawk in the market only as per the hawking policy. The petitioner, being a hawker, has no right to insist that he may be permitted to keep his goods and wares at the place where he is hawking overnight. We are in complete agreement with the view taken by the high court. The concerned authority must act as per the hawking policy." The order was passed on April 11.

The hawker, Madan Lal, had sought directions from the high court to the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to grant him permission to leave his goods and wares overnight at the spot he carries out his hawking business during the day. The high court had noted that the prayer sought by the hawker goes against the concept of hawking to permit him occupying any given area on a permanent basis.

"The whole concept of hawking is that the hawker comes to the allotted/demarcated area during the hours of hawking with his or her goods and wares, undertakes the activity of hawking and leaves the area along with his or her goods and wares at the end of the hawking period. In fact, in respect of mobile hawkers even this much is not permitted," the high court had said.

Special environment provisions sought to harness oil reserves

RICHA SHARMA @New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi announced at a global forum late last year that India will meet 50% of its energy requirement from clean sources by 2030. Consequently, the petroleum ministry has approached the environment ministry to make provisions for clearance of projects to extract crude oil, so that India can harness its reserves.

Two policy proposals of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) on delinking of oil and gas exploration from mining activities and for extended reach drilling (ERD) technology to enhance the country's self-reliance in production of crude oil were recently considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the ministry.

During the meeting, Director General, Hydrocarbon, briefed the FAC about the importance of the proposed ERD technology. The FAC was informed that extraction of oil and natural gas is silent operation, causing minimal damage to the flora and fauna for six months. Thereafter, the area is left to be restored to its original state.

"DG Hydrocarbon also mentioned that given the international commitments at various forums, it becomes imperative to harness the crude oil already identified for the purpose, using eco-friendly technologies," said the minutes of the meeting, accessed by this newspaper.

On the petroleum ministry's demand to create a separate category under forest clearance procedure for oil drilling projects that are currently listed under the mining category projects, the committee said the matter needs in-depth examination as the recommendation regarding the project made by wildlife division of the ministry seems ambiguous. "The Forest Conservation Division may also prepare a statement on impacts of the conventional mining and petroleum mining proposals," the FAC said.

Bharat Ratna for Ram Vilas demand gains momentum

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

THE demand to confer Bharat Ratna on former Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan is gaining momentum in Bihar. Both factions of Lok Janshakti Party, headed by Union minister Pashupati Kumar Paras and Jamui MP Chirag Paswan, have urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to honour the late patriarch of SCs with the country's highest civilian award.

Though both Paras and Chirag are fighting each other as political rivals of the Paswan legacy, they have united in their demand for a Bharat Ratna for Ram Vilas. Senior Paswan, who worked with several prime ministers during his five-decade long career and often called the bellwether of Indian politics, was awarded Padma Bhushan (posthumously) last year. His son and MP from Jamui, Chirag had received the award on behalf of the departed leader.

"He was a leader of national stature and the list of his contributions is long. He was so worried about the welfare of the poor that he worked day and night for them," said Paras, the Union Minister for Food Processing Industries.

"Bharat Ratna will be a real tribute to the departed leader," said Chirag, adding his bit to the demand. He met the Union railway minister and urged him to rename Hajipur railway station after Ram Vilas. Former Bihar CM Jitan Ram Manjhi has also demanded Bharat Ratna for Ram Vilas.

The legal position with regard to hate speech can only be termed as that of contradictory paradoxes and one of legal and judicial quandary

SALMAN MARIS, Managing Partner of TechLegis Advocates and Solicitors

The court observed that with regards to hate speech, actual utterance of words or something more than thought is required and in case of publication, mere thought would not be actionable

BHARAT CHUGH, SC advocate

Legal experts see no clear pattern on prosecution of hate speech in India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

FOLLOWING the repeated instances of alleged hate speeches, two legal experts explained how Indian laws are interpreted to determine whether an accused is guilty or not of delivering inflammatory messages.

While Article 19 guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression with "reasonable restrictions" for preserving inter alia "public order, decency or morality", hate speech is prohibited under various sections of the IPC, the CrPC and other laws.

"The legal position with regard to hate speech can only be termed as that of contradictory paradoxes and one of legal and judicial quandary. While there is no specific law against hate speech, there are specific provisions under IPC and CrPC (to deal with it)," said advocate Salman Waris, Managing Partner of TechLegis Advocates & Solicitors.

"When it comes to prosecution, the courts have taken contradictory stand and recently even gone to the extent of saying the speeches that clearly fall in violation of Section 295(A) (deliberate and malicious acts to outrage religious feelings) of IPC if said with a smile cannot tantamount to hate speech. In 2013, the SC issued notice to the Centre on a petition seeking guidelines to stop elected representatives from delivering hate speeches. However, it dismissed a PIL in 2014 that urged its intervention in directing the EC to curb hate speeches," he said.

SC advocate Bharat Chugh said there are limits to freedom of speech as it comes with corresponding duties. While hearing the bail plea of Jitendra Narayan Tyagi in the Dharam Sansad case, he said, the Uttarakhand HC looked into the far-reaching effect of hate speech and its impact on the society to refuse him relief.

Central scheme to benefit 36K tribal villages: BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

AROUND 36,428 tribal-dominated villages across the country are being developed as 'Adarsh Grams' under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna. They will be provided all basic facilities by the Union government. An amount of ₹7,300 crore has been allocated by the government for this purpose.

"The Modi government has not only started developing 36,428 tribal-dominated villages as Adarsh Grams, it has also decided that the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda will be celebrated every November to create a feeling in the tribal society that the revered persons of their society are special to all, including the government," BJP's national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia told the media on Friday.

In India, there are 705 ethnic groups, which are officially recognised as Schedule Tribes. Most of them are in Lakshadweep, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. Among the states, Madhya Pradesh has the highest tribal population as per the 2011 census.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken about the 'Eklavya' Model School' for providing better education to the children from the SC and ST communities. Under this scheme, the government will build 452 schools and refurbish 211 existing schools in five years", claimed Bhatia.

In the Union budget, the government has increased from ₹1,100 crore to ₹6,000 crore the allocation for education of children from the SC and ST communities.

PROMOTION OF THE INDIGENOUS

Travel and shop: Train yourself on Indian craft

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

TRAVELLING to Chennai by train or catching a train back from the Tamil Nadu capital? Or visiting Darjeeling or Agra or Jodhpur? You don't have to spend a lot of time looking for what the place is known for. Kanjeevaram sarees in Chennai, your favourite tea from Darjeeling and the famed marble work of Agra — everything is available at the respective railway stations.

In a first of its kind initiative called 'One Station, One Product', the Indian Railways has started using its vast infrastructure and network for the promotion of famous indigenous products. Each station with a stall showcasing the product the place or region is known for. These include handloom and textile products, slippers, wooden and metal handicrafts and a lot more. In the last 60 days, the railways has set up such stalls at 87 stations.

Bangalore's Channapatna wooden toys, Sholapur's chadar and bed sheets, Burhanpur's famous jute-handicrafts, Kolhapuri footwear, Asansol's terracotta handicrafts, Assamese famous gamocha, Panipat's pickles, Moradabadi brassware — it's a long and diverse list.

"Stalls of these handicrafts and famous local products have been set up in the stations to give the products and artisans access to a pan-India audience and customer base," said Gaurav Krishna Bansal, executive director (Information and publicity) of Indian Railways. Bansal further said that this initiative is getting good response from passengers.

He said that handicrafts, handlooms and other local products, which have become synonymous with the identity of a city or town, have been put up for sale at the stalls making the railway station a hub of sale for local products.

Railway officials have been encouraged by the response and decided that in the next phase of this project, 100 more stations across the country will be identified and similar stalls will be set up in them. So if you are interested in these items and thinking what to do in case you don't have a lot of time to visit the shops, the railway station is your destination.

Showcasing traditon in stations

Indian Railways has set up shops selling traditional handicrafts items in 87 stations all across the country. There will be 100 more in the next phase of the project

KOLHAPUR
Kolhapur chappals

CHENNAI CENTRAL
Kanjeevaram saree

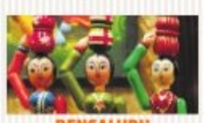
SECUNDERABAD
Pearls and bangles

KOZHIKODE
Handloom dothies & sarees

HOWRAH
Handloom sarees & textiles

AGRA CANTT
Marble handicrafts

JODHPUR
Wooden\metal handicraft


BENGALURU
Channapatna wooden toys

VIJAYAWADA
Kondapalli toys

PURI
Pattachitra (painting)

PATNA JN
Madhubani painting

GUWAHATI
Assamese gamocha

SURVIVOR SELF-IMMOLATES

A 14-year-old girl, who survived a rape attempt in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, set herself on fire after she was allegedly threatened to withdraw the police complaint, officials said on Friday

3 HELD AFTER 2 POLICEMEN HELD CAPTIVE BY VILLAGERS IN UP

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	26	Mumbai	31	26
Bhopal	41	25	Panaji	31	27
Jaipur	40	25	Patna	42	23
Amritsar	37	20	Lucknow	42	26
Chennai	38	30	Port Blair	32	26
Kolkata	35	28	Imphal	33	18
Srinagar	26	07	Chandigarh	44	23

Himachal govt announces freebies ahead of poll, AAP takes 'copy' dig

AAP claims BJP against freebies, will withdraw the sops announced if it returns to power

THE THREE SOPS

- Free electricity up to 125 units, from July 1. The scheme will benefit about 11.5 lakh consumers in the state. Benefit to the tune of nearly `250 crore
- Free water in rural areas. This will give financial benefits to the tune of `30 crore to all rural families across the state
- A 50% discount in fare for women travelling in Himachal Roadways Transport Corporation buses. Women to save `60 cr

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

WITH an eye on assembly elections scheduled in the year-end, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** on Friday announced a slew of freebies, including free electricity, prompting the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of accusing the BJP-led state government of copying the 'Kejriwal model'.

Addressing a function held at Chowgan town in Chamba district of the state to mark the 75th Himachal Day, the CM announced free electricity for households that stick to a 125-unit consumption limit, free water in rural areas, and a 50-per cent discount in fare for women travelling in state-owned Himachal Roadways Transport Corporation buses.

The decision to provide free electricity will come into force on July 1 and will benefit about 11.5 lakh consumers to the tune of nearly ₹250 crore. The free water supply will give financial benefits to the tune of ₹30 crore to all rural families while the rebate on bus fare will help women of the state save ₹60 crore, the CM said.

Thakur also announced ₹5 crore for expediting work on Holiuttarala road and the mini-secretariat at district headquarters, besides beautification of the Chamba town.

The announcement of freebies invited a dig from top AAP leaders, who are eyeing Himachal after capturing Punjab in the assembly polls.

Both Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as well as Deputy CM Manish Sisodia accused the BJP government in Himachal of copying the Delhi government.

"The BJP should announce these in all the states ruled by it. Otherwise, people will think that it made the fake announcements before the elections because it is afraid of the AAP and that it will take back all the announcements after the polls," Kejriwal tweeted.

"They have started staging a drama of copying the Kejriwal model of governance in the state with an eye on elections," Sisodia said at a press conference in Delhi.

Accusing the BJP of trying to hoodwink the people, Sisodia said the BJP and its "friends" were in power in 18 states but had never talked of providing cheaper electricity in any of these. "Everywhere they say electricity should not be free. They make fun of such freebies. They say freebie is anti-national," he said.

The BJP-led government in Himachal has announced free electricity, water and bus fare rebates a few months before elections as the party is "extremely scared" of Kejriwal and the AAP and fears "imminent defeat", Sisodia claimed.

Appealing to the people of the Himachal not to "fall in their trap", Sisodia said that all the freebies would be withdrawn if the BJP returns to power in the state. He urged them to vote for the AAP.

DISGRUNTLED HARDIK GETS AAP INVITE TO THE PARTY

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

AFTER Gujarat Congress working president Hardik Patel's outburst against his party, the Aam Aadmi Party has given him an open offer to join its fold. AAP's Gujarat unit chief Gopal Italia told Patel not to "waste" his time in the grand old party.

"There is no place for dedicated people like him (in Congress). He should join a like-minded party like AAP," Italia said. "Hardik Patel has come up as a leader on his own. He has expressed displeasure with the Congress leadership. We require leaders like him."

He should not waste his time putting his case before the Congress leadership as it would not yield any results, Italia added.

The AAP, in order to expand its footprints in Gujarat ahead of the Assembly elections in December, has been aggressively wooing leaders from both Congress and BJP and Italia's offer to Hardik is part of the move.

Hardik, however, has denied he had any plans of leaving the Congress. After lashing out at the Congress leadership for "sidelining" him, he said there would be "small fights and blame games" in a big party, "but we have to work together to make Gujarat a better place".

While Hardik denied leaving Congress, AAP leader Nikhil Savani, one of his associates from the Patidar movement, hinted that he might "choose to grab the broom".

The Congress has been facing trouble in Gujarat. Senior party leaders and workers are increasingly turning to BJP and AAP.

On Thursday itself, two senior Congress leaders — Indranil Rajguru and Vashram Sagathia from the Saurashtra region — gave a big blow to the grand old party by decamping to the AAP while former MLA from Gadhda reserved seat, Praveen Maru, has joined the BJP.

PM opens hosp built by Patels

AHMEDABAD: Better health facilities are not limited to only treatment of diseases; they also encourage social justice, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi after inaugurating KK Patel Super Speciality Hospital in Bhuj, Gujarat, via video-conferencing on Friday.

Speaking after dedicating the 200-bed facility to the nation, the PM said, "When cheap and best treatment is available to the poor, his faith in the system is strengthened. If they get freedom from worrying over the cost of treatment, they work hard to get out of poverty with more determination."

The first charitable multi-speciality hospital in Kutch region has been built by Bhuj Leva Patel community with help from donors in India and abroad. This is Modi's third outreach to the powerful Patel community in poll-bound Gujarat in recent days. *ENS*

BJP fact-finding team speaks to media on the Hashkhali case in Nadia on Friday | PTI

Minor tribal girl raped in Bengal, just a week after Hanskhali horror

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

A little over a week after the gang rape and murder of a schoolgirl came to light in West Bengal's at Hanskhali in Nadia, a minor tribal girl was allegedly gang raped in Birbhum . She was attending a local fair with her mother.

The assault on the tribal girl took place when she went to *chadak mela*, a religious festival, observed mainly in rural Bengal. Over there, her mother met one of her friends. "She was chatting with her friend sitting on the banks of a river when five men turned up. They allegedly beat up her friend and dragged her away. The girl was allegedly gang raped," said a police officer in Birbhum district, citing the complaint lodged by the victim's family.

The girl was first admitted to a local hospital. She was later shifted to SSKM Hospital in Kolkata, where she underwent surgery. A medical board comprising doctors of gynaecology, forensic medicine, medicine and psychology departments was formed.

SP of Birbhum, Nagendranath Tripathi said, "We have identified three suspects who are at large. A hunt is on to track them down."

The incident occurred hours after senior Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy expressed concern over rising crimes against women in the state ruled by a woman chief minister.

The TMC MP had on Thursday, while attending an event in his Lok Sabha constituency, had said everyone is worried over incidents of crime against women.

"We have to ensure zero tolerance on this. In a state where the chief minister is a woman, if even one such incident takes place, it is shameful for everyone."

Difference of opinion within the TMC surfaced over Roy's comment after another MP, Shatabdi Roy said she did not support the veteran leader's statement.

Jailed trio booked for arson during Navami clash

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

IN a major goof-up, the Madhya Pradesh Police has booked three men in connection with rioting in Sendhwa town of Barwani district on April 10 even as they have been in jail for over a month after their arrest in a case of attempt to murder.

The trio — Shahbaz, Rauf and Faqhru — were booked on April 11 for setting a motorcycle and scooter ablaze near a mosque in Sendhwa on the day communal violence erupted in the town following an attack on the Ram Navami procession. They were booked under IPC Section 435 (Mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to cause damage to an amount of ₹100 or upwards).

Shahbaz's mother Saqeena Bi spoke told this newspaper, "How can my son, who has already been in jail for a month, come out and set a motorbike ablaze? We told police that, but they didn't listen to us. They even picked up Shahbaz's cousin Golu two days back for communal violence and haven't released him despite our pleas that he was in no way involved in any crime. Our house too has been partially demolished by the authorities, without serving us any prior notice of it being illegal."

The three men are already accused in multiple crime cases. While Shahbaz was accused in five cases, including murder and kidnapping in Sendhwa and adjoining Maharashtra, Faqhru and Rauf are accused in two and four criminal cases, respectively.

Meanwhile, curfew was relaxed for two hours each on Friday morning and evening — from 10 am to 12 noon and from 3 pm to 5 pm — in Khargone as the situation was normal, officials said.

Special team to trace missing woman

A woman has gone missing amid the Ram Navami violence that took place in Khargone in MP on April 10, with a top police official stating on Friday that a special team had been formed to trace her. She had gone in search of her children who were in the vicinity of the procession, soon after word trickled in of the event being marred by stone-pelting and arson, her relatives said.

One of the violence-hit stretches of Lohardaga in Jharkhand

'Terror' role feared: SIT to probe J'khand clashes

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) will conduct investigations into the communal violence which broke out in Lohardaga during Ram Navami procession here on Sunday.

According to preliminary reports from the police, it was found that the incident was not merely a clash between two communal groups but, a pre-planned conspiracy, provoked by the sleeper cells backed by the terrorist organisations.

"An SIT, headed by Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), will investigate the violence which took place during Ram Navami procession on Sunday," said Sub-Divisional Officer Arvind Kumar Lal. He, however, refused to divulge any further details in this matter.

Sources in district administration had claimed earlier they had strong intelligence inputs that funding by terrorist organisations was being carried out in Lohardaga in the name of football tournaments. Members of the sleeper cell were trying to spread communal violence in the main market and doing a 'recce' for the same, but after district administration coming into action; it conducted intensive searches. Following this, they escaped from there, it claimed.

They also informed that since they could not succeed in carrying out any attack in the main market, they executed their plan in Hirhi village. Incidents of stone-pelting and arson were reported during the Ram Navami procession in Hirahi village in Lohardaga on Sunday claiming one life and leaving four others injured.

Amit Shah to visit MP on April 22 amid communal row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

UNION minister Amit Shah will be on a day-long visit to Madhya Pradesh on April 22. Though it is an official trip which was scheduled in the first week of April, and the home minister will to attend the 48th All India Police Science Congress as chief guest in Bhopal, the visit comes in the backdrop of the communal violence in Khargone and Sendhwa towns during the Ram Navami processions.

The Shivraj Singh Chouhan government has come under sharp attack from opposition parties, Muslim outfits and rights bodies over its handling of the violence, particularly over deploying bulldozers to raze the properties of the accused, mostly Muslims.

Jamait Ulama-I-Hind chief Maulana Mahmood Madani has even written a letter to Shah over the alleged harassment of the minority community in Khargone and sought a judicial inquiry into the violence after attacks on Ram Navami procession.

According to sources in the state government and police, "its a real challenge to bring back normalcy not only to the riot hit Khargone town, but also to ensure that Hanuman Jayanti passes off peacefully.

Hanuman Chalisa on loudspeakers

Lucknow: The loudspeaker controversy, which had reached UP's Aligarh on Wednesday with ex-office bearer of Akhil Bhartiya Vidharthi Parishad seeking to mount loudspeakers at 21 crossings to play Hanuman Chalisa, took a new turn when Hindu Mahasabha joined the campaign and mounted the sound amplifiers at four crossings across Aligarh city on Friday to blare Hanuman Chalisa. Two days back, the local administration and ABVP's former office bearer Baldev Chadhury, had locked horns when Chaudhury had announced his plan and the ADM had denied permission. However, the Hindu Mahasabha on Friday installed four loudspeakers at Sanatan Bhawan and started playing mantras. ENS

Uddhav back in state secretariat after 2 yrs

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has started coming to the administrative headquarters at Mantralaya after a two-year hiatus. He is meeting various department staffers one after another and inquiring about their issues. He held back had not come to Mantralaya due to Covid 19 and later heck spine surgery. Thackeray generally likes to speak directly with people through their speeches, but they hardly mingle with people. But Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray put aside their old style of functioning such as ruling remotely and entering electoral politics. Now, one-to-one interacting with government employees and he will soon start to interact with his party leaders and workers.

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
Our correspondent in Maharashtra
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MUMBAI DIARY

Cong workers desperately want Rahul in Mumbai

Congress leaders in Maharashtra are trying very hard to get Rahul Gandhi in Mumbai, but Rahul Gandhi has no time for the one of the second largest 48 Lok Sabha seats state and financial capital of India. Congress ministers have put in their collective request in Delhi but hardly anyone has considered it yet. On the other hand, Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi is more accessible than her elusive son Rahul Gandhi. However, the grievances plea of Maharashtra Congress leaders went to Rahul Gandhi and he has agreed to come to Maharashtra soon to inaugurate various Congress initiated programmes and boost the morale of the Congress leaders and workers in difficult times.

Sharad Pawar and Raj Thackeray lock horns

NCP chief Sharad Pawar was on the line for the BJP and Raj Thackeray led MNS. Raj Thackeray in his last two speeches one in Mumbai and another in Thane spent considerable amount of his time ridiculing and criticising MVA ministers – including those from the NCP. That includes NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Supriya Sule, state president Jayant Patil, Ajit Pawar, and others. However, Sharad Pawar in his dotage has not lost any spirit to take on the opponent through his regular press conferences and speeches. Pawar seems to be more active after the pandemic virtually getting over. He is travelling and telling people BJP is desperate to come back in power, therefore, misusing Central agencies.

N-E EXPANSION

After Manipur, Conrad Sangma's NPP eyes Nagaland polls in 2023

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

AFTER consolidating its position by improving its vote share in the recent Manipur Assembly polls, the National People's Party (NPP) led by Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma is now eyeing Nagaland.

Party's Nagaland state president **Andrew Ahoto Sema said,** "We are working the undercurrent. Our poll-related activities will be visible from September-October period."

"The Centre pumped so much money into Nagaland. However, we are yet to have basic public infrastructure. People are lying low but they see a good scope for them in the NPP because it is a sleeping lion," the leader told this newspaper

In Manipur, the NPP had upstaged the Congress to become the principal opposition party. It feels the Manipur results will have a ripple effect in Nagaland.

The NPP had won two seats in the 2018 Nagaland polls but suffered a jolt soon after when both MLAs jumped ship. With the state bracing for the elections again, the NPP has started the groundwork.

The Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) heads Nagaland's ruling coalition where the BJP is a key component.

The NPP Nagaland chief lamented, the 'change' part of Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio's 'change is coming' tagline for his government remained elusive. "We have never had any finger-pointing on anything but we feel the state should flourish. It has been for nearly 20 years that the people of Nagaland are waiting to see the change which the CM had spoken about," the party chief said.

He said the party was grooming potential workers to make them election-ready. He claimed the NPP also received feelers from some MLAs of ruling parties who were willing to join it.

J&K Rajputs in panic after targeted killing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Srinagar

THE killing of a Rajput driver by militants in south Kashmir's Kulgam district has triggered panic among the community while Kashmiri Pandit groups continue to be in concerned over recent targetted attacks on Hindus and Pandits in Valley.

Thakur Jagdish Singh said the Kashmiri Rajput Hindus have been living in Kakran village of Kulgam for decades.

About eight Kashmiri Rajput Hindu families have been living in Kulgam from decades. "We never faced any problem from the majority community. There was always communal harmony among us. We had never lived in fear till today. But now after the killing of one of our community members, we are scared," said Jagdish, a Kashmiri Rajput Hindu.

On Wednesday evening, militants shot dead 50-year-old Satish Kumar Singh, a Kashmiri Rajput Hindu and a driver by profession near his residence in Karan village of Kulgam.

In a series of targeted attacks by militants in the recent past, Kashmiri Rajput Hindu has been killed while a Kashmiri Pandit shopkeeper and four migrant labourers have been injured. Almost all of these targeted attacks have taken place in south Kashmir.

10
Ten jailed al-Qaeda militants have escaped from prison in Yemen's eastern province of Hadramawt

GLOBAL WEATHER

Beijing	24	8	SNY	Los Angeles	19	12	SNY
Colombo	31	26	LC	Melbourne	27	17	LC
Dhaka	36	28	SNY	Moscow	5	-1	LR
Dubai	37	27	LC	New York	19	6	SNY
Houston	31	23	TDS	Singapore	31	26	TDS
Istanbul	20	10	SNY	Toronto	7	0	LR
London	19	7	LC	Washington	22	7	SNY

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Bankrupt Lanka imposes ration on fuel

Limit for motorcycles set at four litres of petrol, three-wheelers at five litres, and private four-wheelers at 19.5 litres

COLOMBO

CASH-STRAPPED Sri Lanka imposed fuel rationing on Friday in another worsening of the economic crisis that has sparked widespread demonstrations calling for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resignation.

The state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC), which accounts for two-thirds of the retail fuel market, said it would limit the quantities drivers can buy, and banned pumping into cans altogether to prevent motorists stocking up on petrol or diesel in fear of further rationing.

According to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) statement, now motorcycles and other two-wheelers can purchase fuel upto worth Rs 1,000 per visit to a fuel station. Similarly, three-wheelers can purchase fuel worth Rs 1,500, cars, jeeps and vans upto Rs 5,000. Buses, lorries and commercial vehicles have been exempted from the rationing.

Energy ministry officials said they expected the country's other fuel retailer, Lanka IOC — the local unit of Indian Oil Corporation — to follow suit.There was no immediate comment from the Lanka IOC, which accounts for the remaining one third of the market.

Most pumping stations were already out of petrol, while the few that remained open saw long queues. At least eight people have died while waiting in fuel lines since last month.

The island nation is in the grip of its worst economic crisis since independence in 1948, with severe shortages of essential goods and regular blackouts causing widespread misery. The country's main cooking gas retailer Litro Gas said it was completely out of stock, but hoped to get new supplies by Monday to resume distribution. The state-owned firm said its chairman, Theshara Jayasinghe, a strong ally of Rajapaksa, had resigned on Thursday over the "prevailing situation" in the country.

A man holds a Sri Lankan national flag during an ongoing anti-government demonstration outside the president's office in Colombo on Friday | AFP

Tens of thousands of people kept up a protest outside Rajapaksa's office for a seventh straight day Friday demanding he quit over the economic hardships suffered by the country's 22 million residents.

Sri Lanka's economic meltdown began after the coronavirus pandemic torpedoed vital revenue from tourism and remittances. The government has urged citizens abroad to donate foreign exchange to help pay for desperately needed essentials after announcing a default on its entire external debt.

It has announced it will open negotiations with the International Monetary Fund to seek a bailout. *Agencies*

POISON PILL DEFENCE

Twitter adopts shareholders' rights plan to thwart takeover

WASHINGTON

TWITTER said on Friday that its board of directors has unanimously adopted a "poison pill" defence in response to Tesla chief executive Elon Musk's proposal to buy the company and take it private.

Twitter said the action, formally called a limited duration shareholder rights plan, "will reduce the likelihood that any entity, person or group gains control of Twitter through open market accumulation without paying all shareholders an appropriate control premium," Twitter said in a statement.

Poison pills are often used to defend against hostile takeovers. Twitter's plan would take effect if Musk's roughly 9% stake grows to 15% or more. Even then, Musk could still take over the company with a proxy fight by voting out the current directors. Twitter said the plan doesn't prevent the board from engaging with parties or accepting an acquisition proposal if it's in the company's "best interests."

A poison pill path is a "predictable" defensive maneuver, although it could be seen as a "sign of weakness" and viewed unfavorably on Wall Street, Wedbush Securities analyst Daniel Ives said in an emailed note. Twitter had revealed in a securities filing Thursday that Musk offered to buy the company outright for over $43 billion. *Agencies*

Israeli security forces fire tear gas at Palestinian protesters In Jerusalem | AFP

150 HURT IN CLASHES AT JERUSALEM'S AL-AQSA MOSQUE

BEITA

MORE than 150 people were wounded on Friday in clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli police at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound, the first face-off in the area since the start of Ramadan.

Israeli police said "dozens of masked men" marched into Al-Aqsa setting off fireworks before crowds hurled stones towards the Western Wall — considered the holiest site where Jews can pray.

Witnesses said Palestinians threw stones at Israeli forces, who fired rubber-coated bullets and sound grenades.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said 153 people were hospitalised and "dozens of other injuries" were treated at the scene. Israeli police said at least three officers were hurt.

Around 400 people were arrested, said the Palestinian Prisoner's Club, a group which supports inmates.

The clashes come after three tense weeks of deadly violence in Israel and the occupied West Bank, and as the Jewish festival of Passover and Christian Easter overlap with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Al-Aqsa is Islam's third-holiest site. Jews refer to it as the Temple Mount, referencing two temples said to have stood there in antiquity.

> We must not let anyone turn these holy days into a platform for hate, incitement, and violence
>
> Yair Lapid, Israeli Foreign Minister

Last year during Muslim fasting month, clashes that flared in Jerusalem, including between Israeli forces and Palestinians visiting Al-Aqsa, led to 11 days of devastating conflict between Israel and Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said Friday's "riots" were "unacceptable".

"The convergence of Passover, Ramadan, and Easter is symbolic of what we have in common. We must not let anyone turn these holy days into a platform for hate, incitement, and violence," he said. *AFP*

A BONE OF CONTENTION

The compound in the Old City is a highly sensitive site sacred in both Islam and Judaism

14-hectare
rectangular esplanade at the southeast corner of the Old City was seized by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War

17 century
The compound in its current form was built in the seventh century by Islam's second caliph, Omar

WHO'S BREAKING THE LAW ?

Jews are allowed to visit the compound, but are forbidden from praying there

Most, however, do not enter the area as Israel's chief rabbinate says that visiting it is forbidden under Jewish law due to issues of ritual impurity

Ultra-nationalist Jews regularly visit the esplanade where they can sometimes be seen praying discreetly

HISTORY OF CLASHES

1929: Deadly riots broke out during the British mandate, with Muslims rallying to defend the site.

1996: An Israeli decision to open a new entrance to the west of the plaza sparked clashes that left more than 80 people dead in three days

2017: The compound was temporarily closed after three Arab Israelis opened fire at Israeli police near the site, killing two of them

2019: Clashes between Israeli police and worshippers on the compound left dozens of Palestinians wounded

2021: During Ramadan, there were clashes in the compound between police and Muslim worshippers

Toll nears 400 as S Africa reels from its worst flood in decades

DURBAN

POLICE, army and volunteer rescuers on Friday widened the search for dozens still missing five days after the deadliest storm to strike South Africa's coastal city of Durban in living memory as the death toll rose to nearly 400.

The floods, which affected nearly 41,000, left a trail of destruction and at least 395 people dead, regional head of the disaster managing ministry Sipho Hlomuka said.

With the government coordinating the search-and-rescue operation, the official number of people missing in KwaZulu-Natal province stood at 55.

A fleet of cars and helicopters carrying police experts set out early Friday to comb through a valley in Marianhill suburb, west of Durban, to look for 12 people reported missing in the floods, AFP correspondents said.

It is an increasingly desperate search for survivors.

Travis Trower, a director for the volunteer-run organisation Rescue South Africa, said his teams had found only corpses after following up 85 calls on Thursday.

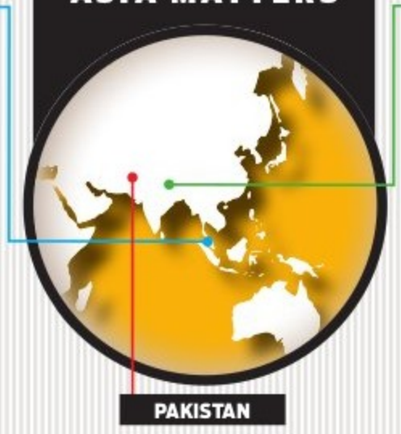
President Cyril Ramaphosa — recalling the Covid 19 pandemic and the deadly July riots, described the floods as "a catastrophe of enormous proportions... not seen before in our country" — urged Good Friday prayers for survivors. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Terrorist apologises for 2015 Paris attacks

Paris: The sole surviving member of the jihadist team that carried out the November 2015 Paris attacks apologised on Friday to the victims at the end of his trial testimony. "I wish to express my condolences and offer an apology to all the victims," Salah Abdeslam told the court in a sometimes tearful statement. "I know that hatred remains... I ask you today that you hate me with moderation," he said, adding: "I ask you to forgive me." It marked a dramatic end to three days of testimony by Abdeslam

ASIA MATTERS



SINGAPORE

Sikhs celebrate harvest festival of Baisakhi

Singapore: Sikhs in Singapore celebrated the harvest festival of Baisakhi with the launch of first Sikh professorship in the city-state and Southeast Asia an an initiative to raise the number of women in community leadership roles. The Central Sikh Gurdwara Board (CSGB) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National University of Singapore (NUS) on a visiting professorship in Sikh studies aimed at promoting academic scholarship in this field both in Singapore and abroad. This is the first Sikh professorship to be set up in Singapore and Southeast Asia. The CSGB said it is aiming to raise S$1.2 million for an endowment fund to support the visiting professorship. Donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the government.

PAKISTAN

Eight soldiers killed in two separate terror attacks

Karachi: At least eight soldiers were killed in two different terrorist attacks in Pakistan's North Waziristan, a media report said on Friday. In the first incident, which happened on Thursday in Datakhel tehsil of North Waziristan tribal district, seven soldiers were killed when terrorists ambushed a vehicle of security forces, the Dawn newspaper reported. In the second incident, which also happened on Thursday in Isham area of the district, a solider was killed in a clash between forces and terrorists

NEPAL

Age-old tongue-piercing festival begins

Kathmandu: Buddha Krishna Bagha Shrestha got his tongue pierced for the ninth time on Friday, as people in Nepal celebrated the unique tongue-piercing festival after a gap of three years due to the pandemic. Dating back to over a thousand years, the tongue-piercing festival is held on the second day of the Nepali New Year as a part of Bisket Jatra and is celebrated only in the Bhaktapur district. The festival, celebrated to ward off evil spirits, is linked with the social welfare and well-being of the people. It falls at the beginning of the New Year as per the Bikram Era calendar. The festival could not be observed for the past three years due to the pandemic. According to the tradition, only the locals of Bode from the Shrestha family can volunteer to get their tongue pierced.

Nepal FM calls non-residents to make investments

KATHMANDU

THE Nepal government has urged Nepalese nationals living abroad to open dollar accounts in banks in the country and make investments amidst the economic crisis in the Himalayan nation.

Nepal's foreign reserves have been hit by a slump in tourism during the pandemic, a problem that has also hit Sri Lanka.

Speaking at a virtual interaction organised by the Non-Resident Nepali Association, Nepal's Finance Minister Janardan Sharma said that opening dollar accounts in Nepalese banks by Non-resident Nepalese would help the country to get rid of the foreign currency crunch.

"There will be no shortage of liquidity if 100,000 NRNs open bank accounts in Nepal at the rate of 10,000 dollars," Sharma said. "We have enough foreign currency to buy goods and services for 6-7 months." *PTI*

Russia attacks missile factory near Kyiv

KYIV

A military factory outside Kyiv that produced missiles allegedly used to hit Russia's Moskva warship was partly destroyed by overnight Russian strikes, journalists at the scene saw on Friday.

A workshop and an administrative building at the Vizar plant, in the Kyiv suburb of Vyshneve near the international Zhuliany airport, were seriously damaged.

Around 50 vehicles parked near the plant had their windows blown out.

Russia had earlier announced it had hit the factory using Kalibr sea-based long-range missiles. The strike came a day after Ukraine claimed it had destroyed Russia's Moskva warship, which Moscow later said had sunk.

According to a statement on Ukraine's state weapons manufacturer Ukroboronprom website, the Vizar factory produced Neptune missiles.

Andrei Sizov, a 47-year-old owner of a nearby wood workshop, said the strikes came at night.

"Around 1.30 am, my security guard called me because there was an air strike," he told AFP. "There were five hits. My employee was in the office and got thrown off his feet by the blast." He believes Russia was taking revenge for the Moskva warship, saying: "They are making us pay for destroying the Moskva."

People stand near a damaged building at the Vizar company military-industrial complex in Kyiv on Friday | AFP

The governor of Ukraine's southern Odessa region, Maxim Marchenko, had said Thursday that the Ukrainian army had used Neptune missiles to strike the Moskva.

Moscow did not confirm this explanation for the sinking of its massive vessel, saying only that a fire broke out on board the 186-metre-long ship.

It said the cruiser sank during an attempt to tow it to the nearest port. While two workers at the site of the Vizar factory told AFP the strike had not caused any casualties, Ukrainian authorities did not immediately confirm this information. At midday on Friday, cleaners were working to clear the rubble in the partly damaged administrative wing of the building. Russian strikes in the Kyiv region have abated since the end of March, when Moscow withdrew its troops, saying it wanted to concentrate on Ukraine's south and east.

But Russia warned on Friday that it would intensify attacks on the capital after accusing Ukraine of targeting Russian border towns. Kyiv denied this, instead alleging Russia had staged the incidents to stir up "anti-Ukrainian hysteria" in the country. *AFP*

Finland highly likely to join NATO, says minister

A Finnish cabinet minister said on Friday it was "highly likely" that Finland would apply for NATO membership, just hours after Russia warned of unspecified "consequences" should Helsinki and Stockholm join the military alliance. "At this point I can say that it is highly likely, but the decision is not yet made," said Finland's European Affairs Minister Tytti Tuppurainen. "The people of Finland, they seem to have already made up their mind and there is a huge majority for the NATO membership," she told Britain's *Sky News*

Imran accused of selling state gifts worth Rs 140 mn in Dubai

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has accused ousted premier Imran Khan of selling valuable Toshakhana gifts, including diamond jewellery, worth Rs 140 million in Dubai, inflicting a loss to the national exchequer.

As per the country's law, any gift received from dignitaries of a foreign state must be put in the state depository or the Toshakhana. Shehbaz made the claim during a meeting with senior journalists at the Prime Minister's House here, The News International reported on Friday.

"I can confirm that Imran took gifts from Toshakhana and sold them in Dubai for Rs 140 million (USD 7.6 lakh). Valuable gifts include diamond jewellery, bracelets, watches and sets," he said.

Shehbaz said that he also got a watch once which he had deposited in the Toshakhana.

"I don't need to hide anything," the newly-elected premier said. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government led by Imran had been reluctant to share details about gifts retained from Toshakhana.

An inquiry has been initiated against Imran by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for selling a precious necklace from Toshakhana, inflicting a loss to the national exchequer.

Imran Khan

The necklace was sold to a jeweller in Lahore through Zulfi Bukhari, former Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development for Rs 180 million, while only a fraction of that amount was paid to Toshakhana, the report said.

In response to the allegations, Bukhari said that there was no truth in reports about the selling of a necklace.Talking to Geo News, he said that there never had been any talk about the necklace and the allegations were ill-founded and baseless.

Meanwhile, former information minister Fawad Chaudhry said that Imran purchased the watch from the government which was received as a gift from a foreign country.

"I don't understand what is the actual issue of Shehbaz," he said, alleging that Shehbaz is confused as he is unable to comprehend how to level allegations against Imran.

Fawad said that no matter what the price of the watch is "if it is mine I can sell that watch nobody should have a problem with it." The former minister and close aide of Imran advised Shehbaz to refrain from superficial gossip. Whenever the head of a state receives a gift from another state, he/she has to submit it to the Toshakhana, as per laws. *PTI*

Market Watch

GOLD		SILVER SPOT	
Standard gold (10 gm)	₹54,900	Per kg	₹71,300
Ornamental gold (1 gm)	₹5,120	(.999 fineness)	

Tata-owned Air India reshuffles top deck

Airline appoints N Aggarwal as chief commercial officer & Suresh Tripathi as chief HR officer

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

AIR INDIA'S new owner Tata Group on Friday made a major reshuffle in the top management of the airline.

Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran appointed Nipun Aggarwal as chief commercial officer and Suresh Dutt Tripathi as chief human resources officer.

Aggarwal, who is also senior vice-president at Tata Sons, replaceas Air India (AI) veteran Meenakshi Malik, while Tripathi, who was vice-president of human resources at Tata Steel from 2012 to 2021, succeeds Amrita Sharan.

Satya Ramaswamy, who has worked at Tata Consultancy Services before, was appointed as chief digital and technology officer at Air India, while Rajesh Dogra was appointed as the head of customer experience and ground handling at the airline.

"The new appointees will exercise the powers of functional/departmental heads as per the delegation of authority. We wish them all the very best in their new role," Chandrasekaran stated in the order.

On the other hand, Vinod Hejmadi Hejmadi has been re-appointed as chief financial officer, while RS Sandhu will be chief of operations. Meenakshi Malik will be advisor to Group chairman Chandrasekeran (and then to the CEO when one is appointed) for commercial and technology, while Amrita Sharan would be advisor to the chairman (to CEO when one is appointed) for the human resource department.

This rejig at Air India takes place a month after Tata's attempt to appoint former Turkish Airline chairman Ilker Ayci as MD and CEO of the airline. On March 14, Ayci, who was set to steer the airline, declined the offer of Tata Sons to be the MD and CEO after negative publicity due to his proximity with the current President of Turkey. The Group is yet to appoint a CEO for the airline even as big names from India and globe continue to do the rounds.

Meanwhile, Air India is restoring salaries of staff in a phased manner to pre-pandemic levels as the aviation sector is seeing a strong recovery.

> *New appointees will exercise the powers of functional heads as per the delegation of authority*
> —N Chandrasekaran

Air India's document said pilots' flying allowance, special pay and wide body allowance were cut by 35%, 40% and 40%, respectively, after the onset of the COVID pandemic. From April 1,2022, flying allowance, special pay and wide body allowance of pilots were being restored by 20%, 25% and 25%, respectively, the document stated. Cabin crew members' flying allowance and wide body allowances were cut by 15% and 20%, respectively, during the peak of the pandemic.

Flying allowance and wide body allowance of cabin crew members are being restored by 10% and 5%, respectively. Salaries of other staff members are also being restored but not on a par with pre-COVID level.

"As hope of a post-pandemic world seems within reach and the aviation sector takes off once again with some visible changes in performance, we are happy to inform you that your salary cuts are reviewed and the restoration of salaries will happen in a phased manner," the document said.

INDIGO INDUCTS TWO MEMBERS IN BOARD

The InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo) on Friday announced the appointment of Vikram Singh Mehta and Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa (Retd) as the independent non-executive directors. These appointments are subject to receipt of security clearance from the OMinistry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and approval of the members of the company. Mehta will be appointed in the vacancy caused by the second term of Anupam Khanna having come to an end on March 26, 2022. The appointment of Mehta will be effective from the date of receipt of security clearance from MoCA. Mehta is currently Chairman and Distinguished Fellow of CSEP (Centre for Social and Economic Progress). Dhanoa will be appointed in the vacancy which will arise on Meleveetil Damodaran stepping down on attaining the age of 75 years on May 3, 2022. The appointment of Dhanoa will be effective from the date of receipt of security clearance from the MoCA or May 4, 2022, whichever is later. ENS

ASIANOMICS

CHINA

KEEPS MEDIUM-TERM POLICY RATE UNCHANGED

China's central bank kept borrowing costs of its medium-term policy loan unchanged for the third straight month as expected on Friday, despite Beijing calling for more monetary stimulus to cushion an economic slowdown. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said it was keeping the rate on 150 billion yuan ($23.52 billion) worth of one-year medium-term lending facility (MLF) loans to some financial institutions unchanged at 2.85% from the previous operation, to "maintain banking system liquidity reasonably ample", according to an online statement. Instead, markets increasingly expect an imminent reduction in the amount of cash banks must set aside as reserves, after the State Council, or cabinet, called on Wednesday for the timely use of such monetary tools. Global investment banks including Citi expect such a reserve requirement ratio (RRR) reduction could be delivered as early as Friday, with many expecting more easing measures still on the way. The recent fast spread of Covid-19 cases has induced lockdowns in a dozen of cities across the country, including the financial hub of Shanghai, raising concern over wider disruptions to economic activity. That means policymakers will need to offer more stimulus to ensure the economy is on course to hit this year's growth target of around 5.5%, analysts say.

SRI LANKA

BONDHOLDERS BRACE FOR LOSSES IN DEBT RESTRUCTURING

Sri Lanka's creditors face losing a third to half of their investment in the country's dollar bonds, after the government announced it would restructure $11 billion worth of debt, the first such financial shake-up in its modern history. Formal debt talks haven't started but analysts are already crunching the numbers to estimate what kind of haircuts could be inflicted on bondholders. Mired in economic crisis, Sri Lanka has halted all external debt payments and is prioritising its remaining hard currency reserves to buy food and fuel. The country of 22 million has been hit by nationwide street protests and shortages of everything from power to medicines, and its dollar bonds trade at deeply distressed levels of around 40 cents in the dollar. With markets factoring in an International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan programme as part of the debt overhaul, a $1 billion bond maturing on July 25 is valued at around 45 cents in the dollar, Refinitiv data showed. Citi projects that, across the bonds maturing between 2022 and 2030, Sri Lanka may seek a coupon haircut of around 50%, a reduction of at least 20% in face value and maturity extensions between 10-13 years. "Assuming an 11% exit yield, we estimate that the recovery value on the dollar bonds in such a scenario could range in the low to mid 40s," Citi strategist Donato Guarino said.

SINGAPORE, KOREA

LEAD ASIA'S CENTRAL BANK BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION

Singapore and South Korea both tightened monetary policy on Thursday, hot on the heels of rate hikes in Canada and New Zealand, as global policymakers moved quickly to prevent soaring inflation from derailing a fragile world economic recovery. While the four central banks began tightening policy last year to stem price rises caused by coronavirus-driven logistics bottlenecks, the war in Ukraine, which started February, 24, has since intensified supply pressures, heightening the urgency for policymakers to bring forward planned rate hikes. Asia-Pacific economies largely lagged U.S. and European reopenings from the pandemic, which meant central banks in Australia, India and Southeast Asia had up until now mostly seen inflation pressures as transitory, with a focus more on shoring up their recoveries. Singapore, South Korea and New Zealand were the exceptions and were particularly concerned about surging import price costs and financial stability more generally. The Bank of Korea delivered a surprise quarter of a percentage point rate hike on Thursday. Singapore, meanwhile, tightened its policy, which influences its currency rather than interest rates, for the third time in six months, citing fresh risks from the Ukraine war.

India's labour force shrinks in March

SAMIKSHA GOEL @ New Delhi

IN what looks like an indication of economic distress, the labour force has shrunk by 3.8 million during March 2022 to 428 million, the lowest in eight months, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

What has stood out is that both the employed and the unemployed have fallen simultaneously. While Employment has shrunk by 1.4 million to 396 million, lowest level since June 2021, the count of the unemployed fell by 2.4 million. The fall in both unemployed and employed implies that millions left the labour markets and stopped even looking for employment.

"The fall in unemployment rate shows that millions left the labour markets and stopped even looking for employment, possibly too disappointed with their failure to get a job and under the belief that there were no jobs available," CMIE said.

It goes on to say that this is not the first time that India has seen a fall in labour force in a month wherein both the employed and the unemployed have fallen simultaneously.

"It be a reflection of short-term labour market variations, or even sampling variations." Adding that this time it happened during a larger period of the quarter of March 2022, it says, "This is for the first time in over three years, i.e. since the quarter of June 2018 that we have seen such a decline in the labour force." A decline in the labour force in absolute terms reflects a shrinkage in employment opportunities in absolute terms, CMIE notes.

Sanjay Shetty - Head, Search & Selection, Randstad India says It is observed that the young talent is now actively looking for jobs and is considering a variety of options for their career like green tech, EV industry, startups and entrepreneurship, which can be one of the reasons for the temporary fall in the labor market.

Rapido raises $180 mn in funding round led by Swiggy

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

BIKE taxi platform Rapido has raised $180 million in a Series D round led by new investor-food delivery giant Swiggy.

The round also saw participation from new investor TVS Motor Company, along with existing investors Westbridge, Shell Ventures and Nexus Ventures. With this new investment, Rapido's valuation is said to be around $830 million.

This investment from Swiggy comes at a time when its rival Zomato announced 10-minute food delivery.

The funds will be used to increase overall supply to create an enhanced consumer experience across a larger audience base in metros, tier 1, 2, and 3 cities, and ensure a seamless last-mile connectivity, Rapido said. Also, the amount will be leveraged to bolster Rapido's technology, amplify and strengthen its teams across diverse sets of capabilities.

The bike taxi platform will be investing the funds in all its three categories - bike-taxi, auto and delivery, to enhance its captain (driver-partners) earnings, and improve customer experience in over 100 cities the company operates in.

"We hold a lot of respect for the resilience Rapido has displayed in transforming the mobility and logistics space in India," said Sriharsha Majety, Co-founder and CEO of Swiggy. Both Swiggy and Rapido are already working together, and it is said that this investment facilitates closer alignment to leverage the synergies between the platforms.

ZOMATO TO ROLL OUT NEW FOOD QUALITY POLICY

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

FOOD delivery platform Zomato will be rolling out a new food quality policy on April 18, which may temporarily disable online ordering from restaurants if it receives consumer complaints about the quality of food.

According to an email advisory issued by the company, on receiving a complaint, Zomato will disable online ordering from the restaurant till a third-party (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) approved) inspection of its premises is completed. The entire cost of such inspection will be borne by the restaurant.

It, however, said the course of action in any such cases will be decided depending on the nature of the complaint.

National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) is reportedly drafting a letter to Zomato to bring changes in its policy.

Serving food items that have expired, the wrong type of meat, serving food with presence of hazardous objects like animal parts or sharp objects, non-vegetarian food instead of vegetarian food or rotten food all come under the list of actionable complaints.

Reportedly, National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) is drafting a letter to Zomato to bring changes in the policy.

NRAI in a statement said, "While the intent of the policy is understandable, the implementation leaves a lot of grey areas and scope for misuse. Further, the action of delisting is draconian."

"We have initiated dialogue with the Zomato Team and conveyed our views. They will be meeting with us next week to resolve this in a better more inclusive way, keeping all stakeholders in mind," it added.

Vendors can use GST returns as proof of default: Insolvency regulator

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IN a bid to reduce the delays in the resolution process, the Insolvency Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has proposed some changes in the insolvency and bankruptcy regulations.

The IBBI has recommended changes in the law to provide for filing copies of GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B returns filed by the operational creditors along with e-way bills as additional documentary evidence of the debt and default.

It is also proposed that the same information may also be submitted as part of the claim documents submitted to the IRP or the interim resolution professional for easier verification and admission of claims.

The insolvency regulator has cited delay in admission of insolvency cases by the National Company law Tribunal (NCLT) for taking such measures. According to IBBI, the average time taken for admission or rejection of a case from the day of filing of an insolvency petition was 650 days in 2021-22 against the prescribed time of 14 days.

IBBI has also proposed an amendment to impose an obligation on the committee of creditors (CoC) with regard to providing all the relevant information they possess in terms of the assets of the corporate debtors (CD) from valuation exercises or stock audits, the relevant extracts from the transaction or forensic audits to IRP/RP in a timely manner. In addition, an amendment to enable the interim resolution professionals/resolution professional to seek relevant information from the promoters of a defaulting company, employees, partners and others and to place an obligation on them to share all the information that is sought by the IRP/RP in a timely manner has also been sought.

The insurance regulator has also proposed to remove the ambiguity regarding appointment of a third valuer in case of significant difference in valuation of a corporate debtor's assets given by two valuers. The IBBI proposes that if the difference between two valuations is more than 25%, in that case the resolution professional can appoint the third valuer. Stakeholders can submit their views on the proposed changes by 02 May 2022.

(L to R) M Srinivas Reddy, VP, commercial refrigeration biz, and B Thiagarajan, MD, Blue Star

Blue Star to start its new Sri City plant in Oct-Nov

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AFTER commissioning its new manufacturing facility at Wada, Maharashtra, air conditioning and commercial refrigeration maker Blue Star will unveil another manufacturing unit in Sri City, Tamil Nadu, in Oct-Nov this year.

B Thiagarajan, MD of Blue Star, told TNIE that the Sri City plant of the company would manufacture 1.2 mn units of room air conditioners.

"The plant would reach its full capacity in three phases of 4 lakh units each. We are also applying for PLI (Production-linked Incentive) scheme for the Sri City plant," Said Thigarajan. The new plant will be eligible for a concessional rate of income tax of 15%, the MD told TNIE. The government taxes new plants -- registered on or after October 1, 2019, and commencing manufacturing on or before March 31, 2024 – at a concessional rate of 15% against 22% normal rate.

Blue Star recently unveiled its facility at Wada, to cater to the production of the Company's Commercial Refrigeration products and solutions, in particular deep freezers and water coolers. Built with a capex of around Rs 130 cr, this facility is constructed on a built-up area of around 19,300 sq m, and has the capacity to produce around 2,00,000 deep freezers and 1,00,000 storage water coolers per annum.

EXPRESS READ

Govt plans to mandate telecom infra installation inside housing projects

The government is planning to mandate installation of telecom infra inside housing projects and premises by making changes in the national building code and model building bye-laws, according to draft Right of Way guidelines issued by the Department of Telecom. oT has come up with the draft guidelines for establishment of telecommunications infra across the country. PTI

Senco plans IPO, files DRHP with SEBI

Eastern India's leading jewellery retail chain, Senco Gold Limited has filed a draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with capital markets regulator SEBI to raise Rs 525 crore through an initial public offering, sources in the company said. The IPO of Senco Gold comprises fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 325 crore and an offer for sale of equity shares of Rs 200 crore from existing private equity shareholder, SAIF Partners India IV Limited. PTI

Nifty seen at 17,218-17,782 levels with downside bias

RAM SAHGAL @ Mumbai

STOCK markets could gap down Monday , taking cues from the SGX Nifty and derivatives which show huge shorts to have been formed .

Indian bourse shut after Wednesday for a shortened week marked by Mahavir Jayanti and Good Friday , with the last Nifty closing at 17475.65.

The SGX, a derivative of the Nifty index that is traded on the Singapore Exchange, traded down 154 points at 17322 as on April 15 .

"This clearly indicates that markets could be under pressure at opening on Monday," said Rajesh Palviya , derivatives head , Axis Securities . "Techs will be a drag , while the markets keenly watches HDFC Bank quarterly numbers, which will be out on Saturday ."

Infy and TCS , which announced their results earlier this week , showed record high attrition rates of 27.7% and 17.4% at the end of March 2022. This implies margins could continue to remain under pressure , as per Hormuz Maloo , AFco Investments.

HDFC Bank , which powered to a 14% high of Rs 1722.10 on the news of HDFC merging into it on April 4 , fell almost 15% post that day to Rs 1464 on April 13. Data shows markets could trade 2% above or below 17500 in the coming week , with bias for downside as of now . The range for the week is 17218 -17782.

However, the extent of shorts are huge , and any positive surprise could result in a 100-200 point rally on Nifty . FIIs have net purchased shares worth Rs 3189 crore since the beginning of the current fiscal , after having sold a record Rs 1.4 lakh crore worth of shares in the previous fiscal (FY22). They remain net short index futures — Nifty and Bank Nifty — which is an added bearish sign for the short term.

The Nifty is 6% off its record high of 18604.45 on October 19 last year . The hardening of interest rates in the US and tapering of bond purchases along with the Russian invasion of Ukraine have impacted emerging markets like India , which is hugely import dependent on oil . Russian invasion of Ukraine took the price of Brent to almost 140 USD a barrel.

Pandemic led to major shift in consumer buying: De Beers

Bengaluru: The pandemic has led to a major shift in consumer buying and there are evident signs of growth in exposure and interest among consumers to invest in luxury retail, particularly in jewellery, according to De Beers India. Sachin Jain, Managing Director of the company, says that brand Forevermark is optimistic about the demand of its diamond jewellery, especially during the post-pandemic period, as it registered growth of nearly 15% in 2021, its strongest year in the last decade. De Beers has 14 exclusive boutique stores and it is planning to expand it to 30 by the end of 2022. It also has a strong presence in tier-2 and 3 cities where it has partnered with retailers. "Given the pent-up demand for diamonds, a stronger consumption is expected in the near future as well. Moreover, the reduction of customs duty on cut and polished diamonds in the Budget will certainly spur greater demand for natural and real diamonds," Jain added. The diamond jewellery market is close to $5.5 billion in India, and the brand is seeing a rising demand for high-quality solitaire diamonds. ENS

Joe Root resigns as England Test captain

Joe Root is stepping down as England's Test captain. Root's decision comes after the 0-1 Test series defeat to West Indies last month, and the 0-4 Ashes loss to Australia in the winter. "It has been the most challenging decision I have had to make in my career," Root said Friday, "but having discussed this with my family and those closest to me, I know the timing is right."

Open mind, 'Fun' sessions behind strong reunion

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@Chennai

WHEN Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal were en route Glasgow for the World Doubles Championships, they had a few thoughts in their minds. To take it point-by-point and match-by-match. While Joshna was quietly confident of medalling, the pair didn't even think about the possibility of winning gold, the medal they won at the five-day event in a week ago.

The reason was two-fold. One, Joshna and Dipika (who was coming off a long break) had just started sharing the glass cage for practice sessions after a gap of more than three-and-a-half years. Two, doubles teams had started standalone training camps within their own squads (unlike in other racquet sports like badminton and tennis, most squash tournaments don't have standalone doubles events). While the world's leading partners had dedicated doubles-only sessions, Dipika and Joshna were being reacquainted to one another in Chennai. That was further complicated as Joshna had a busy schedule.

"I was also playing tournaments back-to-back so I wasn't actually in Chennai that often," Joshna says. "Anytime I had a few days off, I would do a couple of days of doubles with Dipika. We tried to get in whatever little practice we could and with that confidence, we went for the doubles (laughs)," she adds. There was another spanner in terms of sparring partners at Chennai. "It was different in Chennai because we didn't have that many players to play with."

What worked for the pair was their muscle memory remained intact. As they got back inside the glass cage, they knew their movements, what spaces the other player would occupy. "Training was really nice, a lot of fun" the World No 13 says. "On court, it was like how it has always been when we played doubles in the past." That was why the 35-year-old felt they had a chance of medalling.

SATURDAY SPECIAL

Liverpool take on Manchester City in FA Cup semifinal on Saturday. In the other last four contest, Chelsea face Crystal Palace on Sunday. Talking points...

WHO'LL GET THIRD TIME LUCKY?

City and Liverpool have had two epic battles this season (both in the PL), both finishing 2-2. City enter the contest after a hard-fought outing against Atletico Madrid in the Champions League while Liverpool did just about enough to see off Benfica. But City's win in Madrid could have come at a cost as two key players — Kevin De Bruyne and Kyle Walker — limped off injured and are doubtful for Saturday's tie. In contrast, Liverpool rested many key players including Virgil van Dijk against Benfica. City have the momentum but injuries (if any) could prove to be big factor at this stage of the season.

LAST CHANCE FOR CHELSEA

Trailing 1-3 after home leg, Chelsea players displayed plenty of heart against Real Madrid in the Champions League and were at one stage had one foot in the semifinals. However, Real got a lifeline at the nick of time and went on to dump the defending champs. Now, Chelsea's only chance to win a trophy this season is the FA Cup.

02

Man City and Liverpool have met twice at Wembley with both games ending in 1-1 draw before going to penalties. City won on both occasions (2016 League Cup final & 2019 Community Shield)

Semifinal line-up: Man City vs Liverpool (8PM on Saturday); Chelsea vs Crystal Palace (9PM on Sunday) Both matches at Wembley Stadium @ Sony Sports Network

LOCAL EXPRESS

Karnataka knocked out of CK Nayudu Trophy

BENGALURU : Karnataka have been knocked out of CK Nayudu Trophy after their four wicket loss to Mumbai in Motera on Friday. Karnataka were favourites to win as Mumbai were tottering at 50/6, but Suved Parkar (103 n.o) and SZ Mulani (74 n.o) stitched an unbeaten 194-run partnership to reach the target of 243.

IWL: Kickstart off to winning start

Kickstart FC started their Indian Women's League campaign in style with a 3-1 victory over PIFA SC here on Friday. Nirmal Devi scored a screamer from around 40 yards to open Kickstart's account while Parameswari Irom and Kavya scored one each for Kickstart. Nissilia scored for PIFA.

Badminton: Ayush wins boys singles title

BENGALURU: Karnataka's Ayush Shetty was crowned the boys u19 singles champion in the All India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament here on Friday. He defeated Maharashtra's Darshan Pujari 21-14 and 21-16. Unnati Hooda won the girls title via a walkover.

Full Marks for Tripathi

Rahul's blistering 71 followed by Aiden's half-century help SRH beat KKR by 7 wickets

ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

EYEBROWS were raised when Kolkata Knight Riders failed to retain Shubman Gill ahead of the IPL auction last year. It has to be said the management have missed his run-scoring ability this season. The man from Punjab, in the company of Venkatesh Iyer, helped the team dance their way to the final with their brilliant show at the top in the second leg of last season.

With no Gill, they decided to go ahead with Ajinkya Rahane at the top this year. The former's performance has been poor despite a long run. He scored below 12 in his last four matches, which did not augur well. With the first wicket partnership reading 43/1, 14/1, 14/1, 16/1 and 20/1, the new opening duo was a failure.

Hence, it came as no surprise when Aaron Finch, who was brought in as Alex Hales replacement even before the season started, was given a game as they prepared to face Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai on Friday.

But the new man Finch failed to impress, getting out for seven. Even the top-order were outdone by the SRH bowlers.

Sunrisers Hyderabad's Aiden Markram and Rahul Tripathi added 94 runs together for the third wicket against Kolkata Knight Riders in Mumbai on Friday | SPORTZPICS

Today's match
MI VS LSG
3.30PM
DC VS RCB
7.30 PM
Live on Star Sports Networks

Umran entertains

The battle between Umran Malik and the Kolkata batters was a major subplot within the contest and his raw pace came up trumps. The way he kept Andre Russell on a leash made for thrilling viewing. Bowling at serious heat, he once again exposed Shreyas Iyer's frailties against high pace with a full delivery that rearranged his stumps. Shreyas, who was expecting a bouncer considering all five outfielders were stationed behind the wickets on either side, danced around in the crease. However, Malik's fuller delivery meant bat and ball weren't even in the same postcode.

After his dismissal, they were 70/4, but Kolkata managed to reach 175/8 with Andre Russell (49 n.o) and Nitish Rana (54) playing a big role in the second half of their innings.

On a pitch, which had a bit of spice, one expected run-scoring to be a tad difficult for Hyderabad. But Rahul Tripathi came up with a positive mindset as the right-hander scored a match-winning 37-ball 71 and was ably supported by AIden Markram, who was unbeaten on 68. Hyderabad reached the target in the 18th over to script their third straight win of the season.

Tripathi started off quite well, but it was only from sixth over onwards that he changed gears. He thrashed Varun Chakravarthy for a four and two sixes in his first over. In the second, he was taken for one more six and a four, which even prompted KKR skipper Shreyas Iyer to bring on Pat Cummins into the attack.

The required run rate spiked to more than nine runs per over, but with a settled Markram and Tripathi at the crease, the ball was always in Hyderabad's court. Even if the latter perished, they were in the driver's seat as the South African looked in his element to steer his team home.

Though the batters played an important role in the win, one also needs to applaud the SRH bowlers, who made use of some good bowling conditions. It was a good toss to win for Hyderabad's Kane Williamson, who had put the opposition in. They troubled the Kolkata batters for majority of the contest with T Natarajan being the pick of the bowlers, scalping three.

Brief scores: KKR 175/8 in 20 ovs (Rana 54, Russell 49 n.o; Natarajan 3/37) **lost to** SRH 176/3 in 17.5 ovs (Tripathi 71, Markram 68 n.o, Russell 2/20).

India beat Germany 3-1, end home leg on top

AGENCIES @ Bhubaneswar

THE Indian men's hockey team defeated Germany 3-1 in the second match of the double-leg tie to consolidate its lead at the top of the FIH Pro League standings here on Friday. The Indians scored through Sukhjeet Singh (19th minute), Varun Kumar (41st) and Abhishek (54th), while Germany's lone goal was scored by Anton Boeckel (45th). Against a new-look Germany, whose half a dozen players of the 22-member squad made their debut in these two games, the Indians continued their domination.

EXPRESS READ

Deepak ruled out of IPL 2022

CHENNAI: Chennai Super Kings had been eagerly waiting for the return of pacer Deepak Chahar. In what comes as a massive blow to CSK, Deepak won't be featuring this season. He was ruled out of the rest of the ongoing IPL season owing to a back injury on Friday. Meanwhile, Kolkata Knight Riders pacer Rasikh Salam, too, will not take part further in this season due to a lower back injury. Delhi pacer Harshit Rana has been signed as the replacement. Also, for the first time this year, Covid has entered the IPL bubble as Delhi Capitals physio Patrick Farhart tested positive for the virus.

IN THE COURT OF THE X ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH No. 26)
P & Sc No. 235/2022

BETWEEN: 1. Mr. K.A.VENKATAKRISHNA, aged about 54 years, S/o.Late.K.Anandam, Resident of: # No. 19, 4th Main Road, Jayalakshmipuram,Mysuru 570012.
2. Mrs.K.A.USHA RANI, aged about 53 years, D/o.Late.K.Anandam, W/o Mr.R.S.Bharath Kumar, Resident of: No.95, 2nd Main Road, New Kempegowda Layout, Kattriguppe, BSK - 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560 085.
3. Mrs.K.A.SANDHYA RANI, aged about 50 years, D/o.Late.K.Anandam, W/o Mr.S. Nahendran, Resident of: No.1221-A, 20th Cross, Sector 7, HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560102.
1 to 3 represented by Their Duly Constituted Attorney Mr.K.A.SATISH KUMAR, aged about 45 years, S/o.Late.K.Anandam, Resident of : # 3/2, 3rd Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560 018.
4. Mr.K.A.SATISH KUMAR, aged about 45 years, S/o.Late.K.Anandam, Resident of: # 3/2, 3rd Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560 018. ... **PETITIONERS**
AND NIL ... **RESPONDENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named has made Petition to this Hon'ble Court under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act for the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioners in respect of the Schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has held by K.Anandam, father of the Petitioners herein who expired on 11.05.2016.

Interested Parties are hereby called to appear in this court in person or by Pleader duly instructed on **31st Day of May 2022 at 11:00 a.m** inform to show cause against the Petitioners family wherein the appearance will be heard and consider and Respondents are Nil.

"A" SCHEDULE

Client Name : K.ANANDAM
DP Name : ICICI BANK
DP ID : IN303028
Client ID : 51658734
Holdings :

S.No.	ISIN No.	Company Name	Quantity
1	INE125D01011	ABC INDIA LIMITED - EQ	500
2	INE199C01026	ADVANI HOTELS RESORTS (INDIA)LTD - EQ NEW RS. 2/-	1000
3	INE098B01014	ALPS BPO SERVICES - EQ	7000
4	INE079B01014	AMI COMPUTERS - EQ	300
5	INE541B01013	ANCO COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED - EQ	300
6	INE266F01018	APTECH LIMITED -EQ	35
7	INE803A01027	ATN INTL - EQ NEW FVRS.4/-	100
8	INE294A01037	BALLARPUR INDUSTRIES LIMITED - EQ NEW RS.2/-	300
9	INE751A01028	COMPUTECH INTERNATIONAL LIMITED - EQ F.V.RE. 5	600
10	INE891A01014	D S KULKARNI DEVELOPERS LTD. -EQ	40
11	INE286A01017	DSQ SOFTWARE -EQ	170
12	INE127A01021	ESSAR STEEL INDIA LIMITED - EQ NEW FVRS.10/-	315
13	INE395B01048	G.V. FILMS LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RE. 1/-	4000
14	INE246F01010	GUJARAT STATE PETRONET LTD -EQ	500
15	INE251H01024	GVK POWER INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED - EQ. NEW RS.1/-	500
16	INE090A01021	ICICI BANK LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS. 2/-	869
17	INE009A01021	INFOSYS LIMITED - EQFV RS 5	240
18	INE312H01016	INOX LEISURE LIMITED -EQ	50
19	INE762G01014	INTERGRATED DIGITAL INFO SERVICES LIMITED -EQ	100
20	INE802G01018	JET AIRWAYS (INDIA) LIMITED -EQ	28
21	INE019A01020	JSW STEEL LIMITED - EQ NEW	270
22	INE938A01021	LCC INFOTECH LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS.2/-	1000
23	INE390A01017	MAARS SOFTWARE -EQ	50
24	INE875I01010	NEXTGEN ANIMATION MEDIA LIMITED -EQ	7
25	INE901B01019	NEXUS SOFTWARE -EQ	5000
26	INE964A01019	ORIGIN AGROSTAR LIMITED -EQ	400
27	INE202A01022	PENTAMEDIAGRAP - EQ NEW RE.1/-	419
28	INE010A01011	PRISM CEMENT LIMITED -EQ	1000
29	INE944F01028	RADICOKHAITAN LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS. 2/-	310
30	INE763B01013	RAMA VISION LIMITED -EQ	100
31	INE357B01022	RAMINFO LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS. 10/-	50
32	INE013A01015	RELIANCE CAPITAL LIMITED -EQ	10
33	INE330H01018	RELIANCE COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED -EQ	218
34	INE002A01018	RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LIMITED -EQ	28
35	INE036A01016	RELIANCE INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED -EQ	15
36	INE614G01033	RELIANCE POWER LIMITED - EQ. NEW RS. 10	106
37	INE352D01011	SHAMKENCOTSYN LIMITED -EQ	100
38	INE565B01012	SHAMKEN MULTI. -EQ	100
39	INE368A01021	SILVERLINE TECH - EQ NEW RS. 10/-	18
40	INE671H01015	SOBHA LIMITED -EQ	10
41	INE047H01018	SRI VAJRA GRANITES LIMITED -EQ	100
42	INE517B01013	TATA TELESERVICES (MAHARASHTRA) LTD -EQ	1133
43	INE083G01031	TATIA GLOBAL VENNTURE LIMITED - EQ NEW F.V. RS.1/-	880
44	INE669C01036	TECH MAHINDRA LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS. 5/-	92
45	INE982C01033	TRITON CORP - EQ NEW RE. 1/-	200
46	INE070B01013	TWINSTAR INDUSTRIES LIMITED -EQ	200
47	INE691A01018	UCO BANK -EQ	1100
48	INE150A01015	USHA ISPAT-EQ	500
49	INE205A01025	VEDANTA LIMITED - EQ NEW RS.1/-	180
50	INE075A01022	WIPRO LIMITED - EQFV. RS. 2	2488

Book Value of Shares, Debentures is Rs.8,40,000/-

"B" SCHEDULE

a) ICICI Bank, Chamarajpet Branch, Bangalore, Savings Bank Account No.625401066402, proceeds Rs.52,791/- (Rupees Fifty Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety One Only).

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 6th Day of April, 2022.
By order of the Court, Asst. REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, BANGALORE

Advocate for the Petitioners: **JAYPEE ASSOCIATES,**
Law Firm, No.38/1, 1st Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 003.
Phone No.2346 8742, 2356 0365. Email: contact@jaypeeassociates.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt.Kamalamma would like to inform general public that she has lost the Original Sale Deed bearing Document No.1164/2002-03 dated 20.04.2002, Sale Deed bearing document no.5570/2015-16 dated 14.09.2015, 35774/2021-22, 12345/2005-06 with respect to House list No.135, Katha No.79, situated at Kommaghatta Village on 01.08.2021 at Kengeri Satellite Town. Finders please contact :

Sri Prashanth, Advocate,
No.16, 1st floor, Kommagatta Main Road, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore-560060.
Mobile No. 9845528135.

QuoteExpress IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING › WINSTON CHURCHILL

FOREVER IN OUR MINDS

SRI S.JANARDHAN
Chartered Accountant

16.07.1946 - 16.04.2001
Sudha Janardhan (Wife)
Kshama Srinivasan (Niece)

SAINIK SCHOOL KALIKIRI, CHITTOOR DIST (AP)
(Under the aegis of Sainik Schools Society, MoD, Govt of India)

GENERAL EMPLOYEES REQUIRED

Sainik School Kalikiri invites applications from eligible candidates for the following vacancies: -

S. No	Post	Regular/ Contractual	Age Limit as on 06 May 2022	Pay Scale	No. of Vacancies		
					UR	OBC	ST
1.	General Employees	Regular	18-50 years	Level-1 (Rs.18,000 - 56,900/-)	03	02	01

Kindly visit **https://sskal.ac.in/careers** for detailed advertisement with essential & desirable qualifications, eligibility and other details. Last date for receiving duly filled in applications is **within 21 days from the date of publication of advertisement, i.e., 06 May 2022.** The list of shortlisted candidates will be uploaded on the school website and separate emails will be forwarded to the candidates. No correspondence through post will be made in this regard. Candidates are requested to frequently visit the school website for any updates. **The school administration reserves the right to cancel the vacancies due to administrative reasons.**

Sd/- PRINCIPAL

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** (Formerly known as Janalakshmi Financial Services Limited), under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	47469438826078	**1) Mr. Kumar DL, 2) Mrs. Mahalakshmi H Vali are residing/ Place of Business** at #1799, Behind Padma Shali Choultry, 12th Ward, Devarajanagara, Dodballapur, Bangalore Rural-561203	**18.10.2021 / Rs.17,04,053/-** (Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Four Thousand and Fifty Three only) **as on 07.10.2021**	**13.04.2022 at 03.45 PM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing SL.No.1685, Katha No.1472/2468 measuring 30x18Ft out of 35x45 Ft Building comes under the Municipality of Devarajanagara, Doddaballapura City and together **bounded on the: East by:** Sri Krishnappas Propertys, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Road.			
2	47519430000242	**1) Mr. Tejus Kumar K C, 2) Mrs. Chitra Sheaker, 3) Mrs. Manjulamma,** All are Residing/ Place of Business: at No.64, Kempanahalli, Yalahanka, Bangalore, Karnataka, 560064.	**30.12.2021 / Rs.26,49,956.32** (Rupees Six Lakh Forty nine Thousand Nine hundred and Fifty six and Paisa Thirty two only) **as on 23.12.2022**	**13.04.2022 at 9.35 AM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing House No.6, Vaderahalli Panchayathi Khata No.4/20/19/6 situated at Kempanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli and **Bounded on: East by:** Road, **West by:** Panchakshari's Property, **North by:** Remaining Property, **South by:** Road and Panchakshari's Property. Measuring East to west 40 feet and North to South 80 feet totally 3200 Sq.ft.			
3	47519420000759 & 47519420001315	**1) Mr. Venugopal, 2) Mrs. Kalaa** both are residing at # 251, Ashrayasite Colony, Shivakote, Bangalore-560089.	**17.07.2021 / Rs.16,12,031/-** (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Twelve Thousand and Thirty One) **as on 13.07.2021**; **05.07.2021 / Rs.14,91,718/-** (Rupees Fourteen lakhs ninety one thousand seven hundred and eighteen Only) **as on 29.06.2021**	**13.04.2022 at 11.30 AM Symbolic Possession**
	Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and Parcel of the property bearing Site No.1 Katha No.136/5/1, Assessment 136/5, Shivakote Village, Hesaraghattahobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban measuring East to West 37 feet North to South 38 feet totally 1406 sq.ft **Bounded on the: East by:** Remaining property of Somanna, **West by:** Property of Marismasappa, **North by:** Remaining property of Soman, **South by:** Road.			

Whereas, the Borrower's/ Co-borrowers'/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby is given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured Assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore, Date: 15.04.2022 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: **The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

Branch Office: **No.2/1, New No.4, Rukmini Nilaya, Ground Floor, Near TVS Showroom, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore-560023.**

CANTONMENT BOARD, DEHUROAD
(Government of India, Ministry of Defence)
Dehuroad, Pune - 412 101,
Ph. No.020 27671222, Fax: 020 27672610
e-mail: ceodehu-stats@nic.in, website: https://dehuroad.cantt.gov.in

No. CBDR/ADMIN/Permanent Recruitment/2022 Date: 13/04/2022

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Note:- Candidates those who have applied for Recruitment of AMO's post earlier vide Advt. no. CBDR/ADMIN/Permanent Recruitment/2022 dated 31/01/2022, they should not submit their application again for the said post.

1. Applications in the prescribed format are invited from eligible candidates for direct recruitment to the post of AMO (Assistant Medical Officer).
2. Detailed Advertisement, Format of the Application form and other information is available on **https://dehuroad.cantt.gov.in**
3. Candidates are requested to download the application form from the above mentioned website. The duly filled application form along with self-attested copy of Education Qualification/certificate should be sent by Registered Post/Speed post only to the "Chief Executive Officer, Office of the Cantonment Board Dehuroad, near Dehuroad Railway Station, Dehuroad, Pune — 412101"
4. **Requirement of Posts:-**

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Scale (as per 7th Pay Commission)	Reservation Status						Age Limit (as per CBESR, 2021)
			UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	Total	
1	Assistant Medical Officer	Rs. 56100-177500 (S-20)	1	-	-	1	-	2	23-35 Yrs.

UR= Unreserved, OBC= Other Backward Class, SC= Scheduled Caste, ST= Scheduled Tribe, EWS= Economy Weaker Section, PH= Physically Handicapped.

Critical Dates:- a. Last date of receipt of application:- 12/05/2022.

Note:- The cut-off date for determining the age limits shall be 04/03/2022. There is no age relaxation for UR Categories.

» For detailed advertisement, please visit https://dehuroad.cantt.gov.in/recruitment/.

Sd/-
Amitkumar B. Mane
Chief Executive Officer
Cantonment Board Dehuroad

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Established under the State Financial Corporation Act, 1951)
Branch Office : Plot No.7, M.P. No.1-1-53, Udaya Nagar, Station Road,
RAICHUR-584101. Phone: 08532-227028

SALE OF ASSETS THROUGH E-AUCTION

The Land & Building of the below mentioned units/enterprises are taken over under SARFAESI Act 2002 for recovery of dues and are available for sale on "AS IS WHERE IS AND WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" will be sold through e-auction. Interested persons for the purchase of the assets are requested to participate in the Bid, through e-auction through web site **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Name of the Secured Creditors : **KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION.**

KSFC/2022-23/AUCTION2620 : **M/s Shubra Surgical Dressings,** Prop: Sri Pradeep S/o Padmanabh Ullal : (1) Open Plot H.No.7-3-254(Old) & 7-3-259(New), situated at Near Old Hospital Area, Manvi, measuring 20'X26'=520 Sq.ft., and

2) Open Plot H.No.7-3-255(Old) & 7-3-260(New), situated at Near Old Hospital Area, Manvi, measuring 36'X32'=1152 Sq.ft. Both the properties standing in the name of Sri Pradeep S/o Padmanabh Ullal. **Reserve Price: Rs.9,61,000/-, EMD Amount Rs.97,000/-.**

TERM AND CONDITIONS FOR SALE: (1) Inspection Date & Time for all the above units: **22-04-2022 from 10:30 AM to 1-30 PM**. (2) Last date and time for payment of EMD & expression of interest to participate in e-auction is **25-05-2022 at 4:00 PM.** (3) Bid opening date and time **18-05-2022 at 11:00 AM.** (4) Bid closing date and time: **26-05-2022 at 4:00 PM.** (5) Successful bidder of land and building should bear statutory dues such as electricity arears bill, water bill arrears, muncipal taxes, commercial taxes, employees dues etc., if any on the assets/property. (7) Interest bidders may contact the undersigned for more information. (8) The other terms and conditions of sale through e-Auction are detailed in the website viz **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** This is also the 30 days statutory notice to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors under Section 8(6) and 9(1) for the sale of assets. Borrowers, personal guarantors and collateral security owners may also use this opportunity to persuade any bidder to participate in the e-auction from their side or close the concerned loan account with up-to-date interest before the bid start date so as to cancel the e-auction.

For more details to participate in the e-auction, interested persons may contact e-procurment help line No.**080-22234115/22230960**, email: **support@helpdsk.com** e-procurment cell, Sri Aravind Bhavan, 4th Floor, Mythic Society Compound, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560001.

Place : Raichur **Sd/-**
Date : 13-4-2022 **Authorised Officer**

QuoteExpress **WHEN YOU REACH THE END OF YOUR ROPE, TIE A KNOT IN IT AND HANG ON** › FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

NMDC Limited

(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028
CIN: L13100TG1958GOI001674

CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT/Engineering & Project Division

E-TENDER NOTICE (Open Tender Enquiry for Domestic Bidding)

Tender Enquiry No: HO (Contracts)/Add. Classrooms DAV/Kirandul/2022/821 dated 16.04.2022 [MSTC Ref. No.: NMDC/HO/3/22-23/ET/52]

NMDC Limited, a "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India invites online bids for **"CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CLASS ROOMS AT DAV SCHOOL, BIOM, KIRANDUL COMPLEX, DANTEWADA (CG)"** on item rate basis, from prospective domestic bidders who fulfil the Pre-Qualification Criteria.

Detailed NIT and tender document including pre-qualification requirements can be viewed/ downloaded from 16.04.2022 to 17.05.2022 from the following websites:

1. NMDC website: www.nmdc.co.in
2. Public Procurement Portal: http://www.eprocure.gov.in
3. MSTC portal: https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp

For accessing the bid document from NMDC website, the bidder has to register as "New User" at NMDC's website link https://nmdcportals.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender

For accessing the bid document from MSTC, bidder has to register as 'New Vendor' at MSTC website link https://www.mstcecommerce.co.in/eprochome/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp and search the Tender Number **NMDC/HO/3/22-23 /ET/52.** For further help, refer to 'Vendor Guide' given in MSTC website.

The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC Limited website. The details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT.

The bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC website/ CPP portal/ MSTC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, CGM (Contracts), NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad can be contacted on fax: **040-23534746**, Tel: 040- 2353 2800, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in

Chief General Manager (Contracts)

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.: 908/BGK/Tr.(W&M)/SE(E)/EE(O)/AEE(E)-1/F-53/7158-66 Dt: 12.04.2022

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement mode Only)

KPTCL invites tender on Electronic mode against Enquiry No: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(W&M)/2022-23/TLM_BGK_02** for Providing manpower services for carrying out maintenance works of 220kV and 110kV Lines & Major breakdowns in TLM Section, Bagalkote, Mahalingapur and Basavana Bagewadi in TLM Sub Division, KPTCL, Bagalkote coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission(W&M) Circle, Bagalkote.

The tenders will be received through e-procurement mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-procurement–KPTCL"** or to **https//eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16.04.2022.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.),
Tr.(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Opp. Sector No.45, Zonal Office Complex, Navanagara, Bagalakote-587103.
Ph: 08354-236032 & 236029

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

HSR Layout Branch,
Bangalore-560 102.
Phone no.080- 25723483
e-mail: cb2673@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **HSR Layout Branch** of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is" on **17.05.2022** from **10.30 A.M. to 11.30 A.M.**, for recovery of **Rs.3,57,12,018.32** due to the **HSR Layout Branch** of Canara Bank from **M/s. Bangalore Ceramics, Prop. Mr. E. A. Wilson,** No. 59/60 &78 Behind BESCOM Office, Kudlu Gate, Hosur Road, Bangalore-560 068
The reserve price will be **Rs.2,94,50,000/-** (Rupees Two Crores ninety four Lakhs Fifty Thousands Only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.29,45,000.00** (Rupees Twenty nine Lakhs forty five Thousand Only) The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **13.05.2022** before **5.00 pm.**
Details of Property : Property Bearing site Nos. 78,79 & 80, V P Khatha No.275, Friends Colony, Garvebhavipalya Village, Hongasandra Dakale, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru- 560068. Total area measuring 5400 Sq.ft. and bounded on: North by: Site No.59 & 60, South by: 30 feet Road, East by: 30 feet Road, West by:Site No.81.

EMD shall be deposited by way of DD favoring **"Authorised officer, Canara Bank, HSR Layout Branch Bangalore"** OR through online (RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer) to credit to the account number - 209272434, **Canara Bank, HSR Layout Branch, Bengaluru–RO EAST, IFSC Code: CNRB0002673** on or before **13.05.2022 upto 5.00 pm.**
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer service providers Website : https://indianbankseauction.com or may contact or may contact **HSR Layout Branch,** Bangalore-560 102, Ph: 080- 25723483, e-mail: cb2673@canarabank.com during office hours on any working day.OR the service provider M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore, Contact Person Mr. Pakhare D D/Mr.Ramesh T H, Mobile: 9480691777 /8553643144, Email Id: eauction@ccsl.co.in.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 13.04.2022

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

NATIONAL SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED(NSC)

(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
22-C, SIDCO (N), INDL. ESTATE, AMBATTUR, CHENNAI-600 050
Tel: 044 - 26256192, 26242363

No: 3(OS-MKTG)/NSC-CHN/2022-2023 Date: 15.04.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(I) Sealed Tenders / e-Tenders are invited from the reputed Seed Producer / Supplier for supply of Pulses and Oil Seeds (e-tender ID-24013)

(II) Due date and time of tender bid submission for supply is 29.04.2022 up to 14.00 Hrs .

For detailed information log on to the website
https://indiaseeds.eproc.in & www.indiaseeds.com

REGIONAL MANAGER

SHRIRAM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

SHRIRAM HOUSING FINANCE

Reg.Off.: Office No.123, Angappa Naicken Street, Chennai-600001
Head Office: Level 3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2 Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051.
Website: www.shriramhousing.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shriram Housing Finance Limited (SHFL) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notices are hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of SHFL has taken the **Symbolic possession** of the mortgaged property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **12th day of April 2022.**

Borrower Name and address	Amount due as per Demand Notice	Description of Property
1. MR. SATYANARAYANA M & 2. MRS GAYATHRI **R/at: No. 255, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross, Vishveshwaraiah Layout, K G Halli, Near Ashok Polytechnic, Bangalore – 560 015.** **Also At:** **Sathyanarayana M, Rahul Industries, No. A18, HMT Industrial Estate, Jalahalli, Near HMT Industries, Bangalore – 560 013.** **Also At:** **No. 36, BBMP Khatha No. 389.1/2/36, Singapura Village, Vidyaranyapura 2nd Division, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore – 560 015**	Rs. 1,13,76,907/- (Rupees One Crore Thirteen Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Seven Only) in respect of Loan Account No. SHLHBANA00002 05 and Rs. 5,81,105/- (Rupees Five Lakh Eighty One Thousand One Hundred and Five Only) in respect of Loan Account No. SLPHBANA00002 11 as on 19.10.2021 with further interest at the contractual rate, within 60 days from the receipt of said notice. Notice dated: 20.10.2021	All the piece and parcel of the Immovable property comprising of residential building constructed on Site No. 36, BBMP Khatha No. 389.1/2/36, situated at Singapura Village, Vidyaranyapura 2nd Division, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 30 Sq Ft, in total 1200 Sq. Ft, together with existing newly constructed residential building thereon, measuring Ground Floor 1000 Sq. Ft, First Floor 1000 Sq. Ft and Second Floor 1000 Sq. Ft . The Building is RCC roofing, Granite Floor, Hardwood doors and windows and provided with basic amenities like electricity, water and sanitary connections and bounded as follows: East: 25 feet Road, West: Property bearing Site No. 35, North: Property bearing Site No. 37, South: 30 feet Road.
1. MR. C NAGARAJU 2. MRS. C PRAJAVATHI **R/at: No. 10, Hebbal Kemapapura, V Patel M Venkatagowda Layout, Kempapura, Bangalore – 560 024.** **Also At:** **C Nagaraju, M/S. Preethi Logistics, No. 111, I Floor, 2nd Main,Amruthanagar, Sahakaranagar Post, Bangalore – 560 092.** **Also At:** **No. 8/10, Gurrapagari Palli, Chamarthi Varipalli, Veeraballi, Cuddapah, Andra Pradesh – 576 268.** **And Also At:** **Site No. 19B: 66B, Khatha No. 1316/A, Dasarahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore – 560 024**	Rs. 43,78,629/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Nine Only) in respect of Loan Account No. SHLHBANA00000 41 as on 13.08.2021 with further interest at the contractual rate, within 60 days from the receipt of said notice. Notice dated: 18.08.2021	All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Site No. 19B:66B, Present BBMP Khatha No. 1316/A, Situated at Dasarahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru measuring East to West 50 ft and North to South 30 ft in all measuring 1500 Sq Feet and bounded on: East by: Road. West by: Remaining portion of the same property. North by: Remaining portion of the same property belonging to Sobha Reddy. South by: Private Property.

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SHFL is in the lawful Symbolic possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SHFL.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 12/04/2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Shriram Housing Finance Limited

NKGSB Bank

NKGSB Co-op. Bank Ltd.
(Multi-State Scheduled Bank)

Regd. Office: "Laxmi Sadan", 361, V. P. Road, Girgaum, Mumbai - 400004
Recovery Dept: Bimal Apartment, Ground Floor, H. F. Society Road, Jogeshwari (E), Mumbai - 400060, **Tel No: (022)** 2837 6816, 2834 9616, 2820 3603; **Email id -** recovery@nkgsb-bank.com
HRBR Layout Branch: No. 25, Nehru Main Road, Kamanhalli, HRBR Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560084, **Tel No: (080)** 2580 2525, 2580 2526; **Email id -** hrbr111@nkgsb-bank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [Section 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT, 2002]

WHEREAS,The undersigned, being an **Authorized Officer of NKGSB Co-operative Bank Limited** under the **Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Enforcement) Act, 2002 (SARFAESI ACT, 2002)** and in exercise of powers conferred Under **Section 13(12)** read with Rule 8 of the **Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002** issued **Demand Notices** to the following various Borrowers, Mortgagors and Guarantors; calling upon them to pay the amount mentioned in the said notice **within 60 days** from the date of the receipt of the same. The said notice was sent to the borrowers/ guarantors through **Registered Post A.D. / Hand-Delivery** at their last known addresses, **but the same could not be served and were returned un-served to the undersigned.** Hence the borrowers/guarantors as mentioned below are by this notice are once again called upon to pay the amounts mentioned against their respective names **within 60 days from publication of this notice** failing which, the undersigned shall be constrained to exercise the powers conferred upon him **Under Section 13 of SARFAESI ACT, 2002** against the secured/hypothecated asset mentioned below:-

Name of Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor: Mr. Chana Ram Bhagdagi (Borrower & Mortgagor), Mrs. Gatu Devi Chana Ram (Dokaji) (Co-Borrower), Mr. Kheta Ram Bagda Ram (Guarantor), Mr. Krishnan Dakshina Murthy (Guarantor) & Mr. Prasanna Kumar Raju (Guarantor). **Date of N.P.A.:** 09/01/2022; **Date of Demand Notice Issued:** 04/04/2022

Total Amount Due (as mentioned in Demand Notice): **Rs. 31,55,981.34 as on 10/03/2022** with further interest and charges, as applicable

Description of Mortgaged Immovable Properties

All that piece and parcel of **Residential Property** bearing **Flat No. G-08**, on Ground Floor, in the apartment known as **"OMEGA ASTER"**, admeasuring 1000 Sq. Fts. Super Built-Up Area (approx 800 Sq. Fts. Carpet Area) along-with **374 Sq. Fts. of Undivided Share** of the land, in Southern Portion of converted Survey No. 88, present BBMP Khatha No. 59/88/1 (earlier portion of BBMP Khatha No. 59/88), Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bengaluru – 560064, converted as per Official Memorandum (Conversion Order) No. ALN(NAY)SR 272 & 273/2007-08, dated 07.01.2009 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, measuring on the Eastern Side: **165'**, Western Side: **170',** Northern Side: **111'2",** Southern Side: **111'8" (165+170)'** and **(110+111/2)',** totally **18592.5 Sq. Fts.**, with proportionate right in the land under the building and with right to use and avail common areas and facilities and with right of ways and easements and parking made available to the said premises along with share certificate and membership attached to the said premises; Owned by **Mr. Chana Ram Bhagdagi.**

Note: This notice is given without prejudice to the Bank's Right to initiate such another actions or legal proceedings, as it may deem fit, proper and necessary under any other applicable provision of law

Place : Karnataka
Date : 16.04.2022

SD/-
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
NKGSB Co-op. Bank Ltd. (Under the SARFAESI Act 2002)

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL, CHENNAI
R.A.No.33 of 2020

Mrs. B.S. Gowramma ...Appellant
-Vs-
Central Bank of India & 2 others ...Respondents

To : 1. M/s. Fina Group, Represented by its Proprietor Sri B.P Srinivas, No.88, 11th Main, 6th Sector H.S.R. Layout, Bangalore-560034.
2. Sri. B.P.Srinivas, S/o. B.G.Puttaswamy Gowda, Proprietor, M/s. Fina Group, No.300, 3rd Main Road, 2nd Cross, A Block, R.H.C.S. Layout, Annapoorneshwari Nagar , Bangalore-560091
....Respondents- 2 & 3

Sirs,

Please take notice that the above Appeal has been filed by the appellant before the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal, Chennai against you for set aside the order **dated 30.08.2013 in O.A.No.596/2009** passed by the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore. The above Appeal came up for hearing before the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal, Chennai on **01.04.2022** and the Tribunal was pleased to order service of summons by paper publication in English and another in vernacular to the Respondent-2 & 3 and was pleased to fix the next date of hearing on **18.05.2022**.

Kindly make yourself convenient to be present on **18.05.2022 at 10.30 a.m** or either in person or through your pleader duly instructed before the Hon'ble Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal, Chennai, failing which please note that the above appeal would be heard and decided in your absence.

Dated at Chennai this the **14-04-2022**

M/S. G. SAIBABA, MR. NAGARAJ DAMODAR
MRS. D. KALAIVANI , Advocates
Off: Door No.17/B, "Kumaran Com's", Flat No.2, Ground Floor, Gandhi Street, Kaveri Nagar, Saidapet, Chennai-15. **Cell: 9551605124**

SHRIRAM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

SHRIRAM HOUSING FINANCE

Reg.Off.: Office No.123, Angappa Naicken Street, Chennai-600001
Head Office: Level 3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2 Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051.
Website: www.shriramhousing.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shriram Housing Finance Limited (SHFL) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notices are hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of SHFL has taken the **Physical possession** of the mortgaged property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this **12th day of April 2022.**

Borrower Name and address	Amount due as per Demand Notice	Description of Property
1. MS. PAVITHRA BAI B 2. MS. YASHASWINI BAI B & 3. MRS. M LATHA BAI **R/at. No. 251/1, 2nd Floor, Thurahalli Village, Jayanagara Housing Co-Operative Society, Near Nandini Milk Shop, Bangalore – 560 061** **Also At:** **No. 08, Turahalli Village, Uttarhalli Village, Opp To Prestige Apartments, Bangalore – 560 061** **Also At:** **MS. PAVITHRA BAI B** **Herbal Life International Pvt Ltd.,** **Working As Associate,** **No. 101/1, Condor Mirage, Richmond Road, Richmond Town Bangalore – 560 025** **Also At:** **MS. YASHASWINI BAI B** **Sunvision Holdings Pvt Ltd.,** **Working As Executive,** **No. 50, Vinay Arcade, K H Road, Shanthinagar, Bangalore – 560 027**	Rs. 18,98,054/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand and Fifty Four Only) in respect of Loan Account No. SHLHBGLR00009 49 as on 16.12.2021 Notice dated: 21.12.2021	All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Southern Portion of Site No. 8, Old V P Khatha No. 281/8, Present BBMP Khatha No. 599/281/8, formed in converted Sy. No. 55/1, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 15 Feet, in all measuring 600 Sq ft, Situated at Turahalli Village, Uttarhalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Presently comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Uttarahalli Ward No. 184 of Turahalli, Bangalore and bounded on: East : 30 Feet Road, West : Site No. 15, North : Northern Portion of same Site No.8, South : Site No. 9.

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SHFL is in the lawful Physical possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SHFL.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 12/04/2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Shriram Housing Finance Limited

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM Bhavana", Kavoor Cross Road, P.B.No.1130, Mangaluru - 575 004.

Dear Consumers,

Redressal of your complaints made easier and more consumer-friendly...

- **KERC has formulated Regulation known as Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum and Ombudsman) Regulations 2004 and made amendments to redress the complaints / grievances of the electricity consumers of the State of Karnataka.**
- **MESCOM has established the following Consumer Grievance Redressal Forums (CGRF) in each Revenue District :**

Name of the Revenue Districts, Chairpersons, Members and Forum Headquarters with contact detail where Consumers can lodge Complaint / Grievances, is as below:

Name of the Revenue District	Chairperson of the Forum	Member nominated by MESCOM	Name of the Member nominated by KERC	Forum's Headquarter
Dakshina Kannada	Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O&M Circle, MESCOM, Mangaluru. Mob : 9448289427	Executive Engineer (Office.), O&M Circle, MESCOM, Mangaluru. Mob: 9448289572	Sri Ramchandra Prabhu.M, S/o Vittappa Prabhu.M, M.Boomika, No.4-934/1, Behind PC Pai Petrol Pump, Darbe, Puttur - 574 201.	O/o. Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O&M Circle, Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited, "Shakti Soudha" Airport Road Bondel, P.B.No. 240, Mangaluru. Telephone No. 0824-2444915
Udupi	Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O&M Circle, MESCOM, Udupi. Mob : 9448289407	Executive Engineer (Office.), O&M Circle, MESCOM, Udupi. Mob: 9480833039	Sri. Ramakrishna Sharma S/o.. KL Sharma Arasikatte, Benthakal Post Shankarapura, Kapu Taluk, Udupi	O/o.Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O&M Circle, Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited, Near MGM Ground, Kunjibettu, P.B.No. 01, Udupi. Telephone No. 0820-2525040
Shimogga	Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O&M Circle, MESCOM, Shimogga. Mob : 9448289444	Executive Engineer (Office.), O&M Circle, MESCOM, Shimogga. Mob : 9448289655	Sri. K.N. Venkatagiri Rao, Bedur Post, Kalmane, Sagar - 577 401	O/o. Superintending Engineer (Ele.), O&M Circle, Near Railway Station, Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited, P.B.No. 49, Shivamogga. Telephone No. 08182-225544
Chikmagalur	Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O&M Circle, MESCOM Chikmagalur Mob: 9480833031	Executive Engineer (Office.), O&M Circle, MESCOM, Chikmagalur. Mob : 9480833037	Sri. B.M.Kumar, S/o Late B.R.Manjashetty, Manjunatha Kripa, Laxmi Nivasa, Pension Mohalla, Chikmagalur.	O/o. Superintending Engineer (Ele.), O&M Circle, Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited, MESCOM Bhavana, Bhuvanendra School Ratnagiri (RG) Road, MESCOM, P.B.No. 27, Chikmagalur 577101. Telephone No. 08262-200414

- **Any Grievance made by the consumer with regard to Supply of Electricity other than the following shall be submitted to the concerned CGRF of the Revenue District**
  - Unauthorised electricity supply under section 126 (Misuse of Energy)
  - Offences and penalties under Section 135 to 139 (Theft of Electricity) and
  - Accident in the Distribution supply or use of electricity under Section 161 of the Act. (Electrical Accidents)
- **Simple Procedure for Lodging Complaint / Grievance and its redressal :**
  - In the event of a complaint and not being redressed satisfactorily (by the authority of the licensee), the complainant shall submit his grievance to the Forum.
  - Grievance Redressal Mechanism available next door.
  - Every grievance lodged with the forum shall be in writing and in the prescribed format **(Form-A*)**
  - No need for consumer to engage advocate to defend his case before the CGRF
  - No need to pay Court fee for redressal of consumer grievance.
  - Consumer himself can appear before CGRF or through his authorised representative to present his case.
  - Simple procedures and decision on complaint **within 60 days** from date of admission of the complaint and it will be heard once **in 15 days.**
  - Proceedings of the forum will be conducted in Public and the decision will be recorded and communicated to the Complainant.
- **Appeal against the orders of CGRF :**
  - Any Complainant aggrieved by the orders passed by the CGRF, may make a representation against the orders passed by the CGRF to Ombudsman in **Form-B* within 30 days from the date of the receipt of the order of the Forum.**

Address, Phone No. and e-mail details of Ombudsman are given below:

The Electricity Ombudsman
Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission
No: 16C-1, Miller Tank Bea Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Tele-fax: 080- 41692617/9448772946, E-mail : ombkar@gmail.com

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer(Ele.) (Commercial)
Corporate office, MESCOM, Mangaluru

Note : * Form-A and Form-B are available on the MESCOM website www.mesco.in

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SBFC Finance Private Limited

(Erstwhile Small Business Fincredit India Private Limited)
Registered Office:- Unit No. 103, First Floor, C&B Square, Sangam Complex, Village Chakala, Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400059.

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from **SBFC Finance Private Limited.** We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/mortgagors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset on the respective dates mentioned hereunder, in the books of **SBFC** as per guidelines of Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of **SBFC Finance Private Limited.** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below, calling upon the following borrowers /mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.
The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

Name of the Borrower / Address	Date of Demand Notice & NPA	Loan and Outstanding Amount	Property Address of Secured Assets
1. SUBRAMANI M, 2. PADMAVATHI C, No.328, 3rd E Cross, T.C.Palya, Anandapura, Bangalore, Karnataka-560036.	**Notice Date: 26th March 2022** **NPA date: 4th Feb 2022**	**Loan Account No.4021060000005006 (PR00615652) Loan Amount: Rs. 21,00,000/- Loan Account No.RESTRUCTURE05006 (PR00923676) Loan Amount: Rs. 83,835/- Total Outstanding amount: Rs.24,29,756/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Six Only)** as on 24th March 2022	All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No.197, Khatha No. 1056, situated at Kannurahalli Road, Hosakote Town, S. M. Vishveshwaraiah Bangalore Gramantara measuring East to West 20 ft and North to South (43.5+45)/2ft, in all measuring 885 Sq.Ft. **and bounded as below: East:** Property belong to Mr. Mohamad Sajid Husen, **West:** Site No.174, **North:** Property belong to Mr. Gopal, **South:** 25 Feet Road.
1. OM COLLECTIONS, 4, 1st Floor, Omber Main Road, Dodda, Bansavadi, Bangalore- 560043. **2. SRINAVASULU M, 3. VIMMALAMMA M,** Site No. 27, Katha No. 243, SY No.61/1, Seeganhalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore- 560016.	**Notice Date: 26th March 2022** **NPA date: 4th Feb 2022**	**Loan Account No.4021060000029131-C (PR00720406) Loan Amount Rs.21,00,000/- Total Outstanding amount: Rs.21,55,293/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Three Only)** as on 24th March 2022	All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No. 27, Katha No. 243, Sy. No. 61/1, situated at seegehalli Village, K.R.Puram Halli, C.M.C. Limits, Bangalore East Taluk, admeasuring East To West 30 Feet, and North to South 40 Feet and Totally admeasuring 1200 Sq.ft. and bounded as under: **East:** Private Property, **West:** Private Property, **North:** Road, **South:** Private Property.

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers, to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act and the applicable Rules thereunder.
Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Dated: 16th April 2022, Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer, SBFC Finance Private Limited**

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

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16.04.2022
SATURDAY

KGF: Chapter 2 review PG4

CITY READ

Patient room inaugurated

Pink Apple Aesthetics , a centre dedicated to plastic and cosmetic surgery, inaugurated a patient room. It was inaugurated by actor and producer Pradeep Soans at Jayanagar 4th T Block recently. This centre is the dream project of Dr Pinkydevi Ayyappan who is a board-certified plastic surgeon. This is a one-stop centre for all plastic surgery, cosmetic surgery and cosmetology needs.

Musical tribute to Lata Mangeshkar

Over 75 musicians will be performing at 'Khana and Gaana', a musical tribute dedicated to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar. The four-day musical extravaganza will see artistes offer shranddanjali to Mangeshkar in the form of music and will also feature a Mumbai-based troupe Golden Greats who will pay tribute to Kishore Kumar, Mohammed Rafi, and Hemant Kumar. The event will display a show of vintage and old classical songs. The event will go on till April 17 at Palace Grounds.

Sunday service, family lunches, and quality time... Ahead of Easter, we catch the buzz in the city

EASTER EGGCITEMENT

Avril and Miriam Quadros with Tara

ANILA KURIAN

BENGALUREANS are in a celebratory mood this weekend as they pull-out their Sunday best for Easter tomorrow. Bonding with family and friends after having spent two years of the festival indoors, with some seasonal delicacies, the city is ready to celebrate Easter just like pre-pandemic times.

Medical practitioner Dr Aloma Lobo plans to spend the day with her large family of children and grandchildren. "There's a church service that happens every day and it's usually a family-oriented event. My children have moved away so it's great to have at least half the pack join for Sunday lunch," she says, adding, "But they want me to take a break this time so we're going out for lunch instead."

Hoping to relive her Easter days from the times she lived in the US, food blogger Rupa Balachandar will be going brunching to a star hotel where she will participate in an Easter egg hunt. "Both my boys, now 21 and 11, were much younger then so they'd always look forward to the Easter egg hunt at Central Park. We'd usually spend it with our neighbours where we'd have a potluck and sometimes I'd take Indian food too. I loved making the goodie baskets," she says, adding, "I know my younger one will jump at the occasion but I'm curious to see if my older one will want to join in for old times' sake."

Author Shinie Antony will be spending Easter Sunday with her mother and brother who is visiting India after three years. "Easter isn't always about food for us. Growing up, we would visit extended family, and attend Easter mass around midnight. Then we'd spend the rest of the day with family and friends who are like family."

While everyone seems to have an elaborate plan for Sunday, blogger Deena Pinto is going with the flow. "The last two years have been spent in isolation so I haven't been meeting anyone. This year, it's a bit emotional without my parents as we usually celebrated it quite elaborately. We'd go to church the whole week ahead of Easter, start making delicious Mangalurean food on Saturday and have a gala time on Easter Sunday. This year, I might just spend time with my cats and a bottle of sparkling wine or meet my friends," she says.

With fewer Covid-19 restrictions, energy architect and mindfulness teacher Avril Quadros is glad she can be around family without worry. "The last two years have been kind of sad because we couldn't meet anyone or just hug them. This year I will be spending the day with my mother, cousins and my dog Tara. We will be attending mass in the morning and then heading to my cousin's house for lunch," she says.

Both my sons were much younger when we lived in the US. They'd look forward to the Easter egg hunt at Central Park. We are hoping to recreate those memories this time in Bengaluru – Rupa Balachandar, blogger

Grand Flea Market in Collaboration with Chittara Presents
ದ ಸೊಕ್ (ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್)
THE SOUQ (MARKET)
8th to 17th April 2022
11 AM to 7 PM
10 Days Exhibition Entry Free
Art, Craft, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
Kumara Krupa Road, Bengaluru
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THE MAGIC VENTRILOQUIST JUGGLING SHOW
LAST 2 DAYS
The Magic Show Live
Date: 16th April 2022 | Timings: 5 PM to 7 PM
The Shadow Show Live
Date: 17th April 2022 | Timings: 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
90+ Shopping Stalls | Live Performance & Much More
All are Welcome. Yes! Entry is Free with Covid19 Safety

Today in Bangalore something grand will happen that has never taken place

Due to family dispute, a big showroom of garment and shoe closed in Indore

Approx 3 cr worth national and international products will be on sale in Bangalore in 4 locations for Retail customers only.....

Urgent in 60 lacs products will be sold and sale will be over

Branded Garments worth ₹700 to 1500 will be sold Now Only in ₹100 & ₹200

United Colors of Benetton · U.S. Polo Assn. · Arrow · Park Avenue · Wrangler · Nike · Pepe Jeans London · Reebok · adidas

Men's and Women's Garments worth ₹4000
will be sold Now Only in ₹300 to ₹900

Formal and Pure Leather Shoes worth ₹3000 to ₹5000
Lotto · United Colors of Benetton · Red Tape → **Now Only in ₹600**

Reebok · adidas **Premium Foot wear worth ₹5000 to ₹9000**
Now Only in ₹1000 to ₹1500

Duffle Bag and Bagpacks worth ₹2000
Now Only in ₹300 to ₹500

Imported Bra & Panty Only Rs 50 to Rs 200

Note :-
1) It will not happen in this sale that something else is written and something else is going to be sold.
2) Respected customers please maintain peace in the Hall.
3) Premium counters will be available in this sale.
4) This Sale is only for retail customers only, wholesale dealers will not be entertained.

This sale is only for 2 days at 4 different locations 16 ,17 April
Time - 10:00 AM - 09:00 PM

VENUE:

1 TAJ YESHWANTPUR BENGALURU
Tumkur Rd, Yeshwanthpur Industrial Area, Phase 1, Near Goraguntepalaya Metro Station, Bengaluru,560022

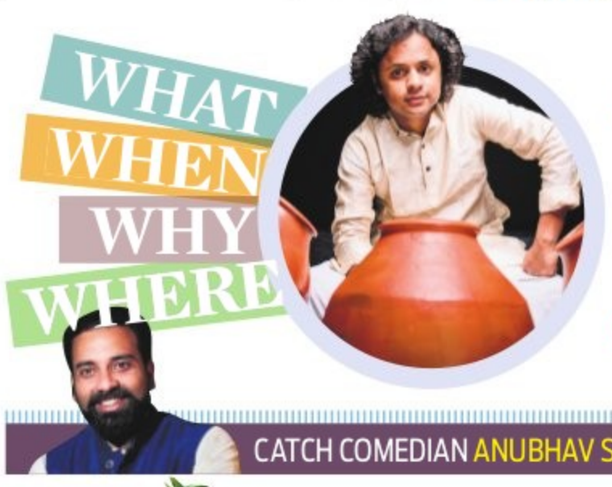
2 THE LaLiT ASHOK BANGALORE
Kumarakrupa Rd, opposite Golf Club, High Grounds, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560001

3 Pearl Banquet Hall
Indian Express Building, 1 Queens Road, Bengaluru - 560001

4 Sri Hari Kalyana Mantapa
30th Main Road, Banashankari, 3rd Stage, Bengaluru -560085

All Covid-19 Guidelines are being followed. No entry in the Hall without Mask

S.I. Advertisers, Lucknow.



MUSIC CONCERT

BTM Cultural Academy is resuming their cultural activities and is all set to host a grand musical concert. The event will feature musical artistes, including Giridhar Udupa, M S Sheela, Arjun Kumar among others. **When:** April 17 **Where:** Shree Ramana Maharshi Academy, JP Nagar

ART SHOW

Check out Kala Sante, an art show displaying a series of artworks by different artistes. The event will also have an art and craft exhibition, flea market, live music, drawing competition and food stalls. **When:** April 16-17 **Where:** Swami Vivekananda Metro Station, Old Madras Road **Details:** 78929 16163

FUN, MUSIC & DANCE

Punjabi Sabha Bengaluru is organising Baisakhi Milan, an evening filled with fun, music and dance. The event will feature artistes like Rekha Raj, DJ Vidhur, and Vikas Kalra. **When:** April 17 **Where:** Chancery Pavillion, Residency Road **Details:** 7760 337337

SHOW-TIME

Ranga Shankara is presenting Aari Gagan Maa (Songs of the Sky), a series of presentation as part of the Kabir Project by Prashant Parvatneni. The show will explore the spiritual songs of saint-poets like Kabir, Bulleh Shah, Meerabai from the folk oral traditions of India. **When:** April 17, 5:30pm-6:30 pm. Entry Free.

CATCH COMEDIAN ANUBHAV SINGH BASSI PERFORM LIVE COMEDY FOR BAS KAR BASSI. WHEN: APRIL 16 TICKETS: BOOKYSHOW.COM

Easter Special

Enjoy Easter the non-traditional way this year with Pan-Fried Chilli Tofu/ Paneer, Roaster Chilli Pork, Char Sui Lamb, Chilli Garlic Noodles and more. **When:** April 17 **Where:** Chowman outlets

Spring to life

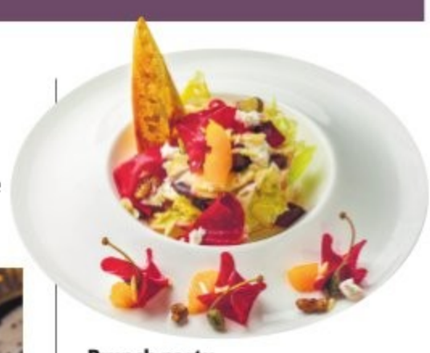
Get set to raise your Easter spirits with Roasted Chermoula Chicken, Garlic Lamb Parma, Mushroom Bitterballen, Easter Egg Royalé and more. **When:** Till April 17 **For reservations**, call 4725 0088

Dance alert

On the eve of World Dance Day, Ashish Mohan Khokar's 'attenDance' will see its 22nd edition. 108 dancers will participate, including Vani Ganapathy and Lalitha Srinivasan. **When:** April 28, 6 pm **Where:** Khincha Auditorium, Race Course Road

Sunday Brunch

MoMo Café has curated themed Sunday brunches with festive-special cupcakes, savoury waffles and sundae bars. It also offers Sikandari Raan, Chapli Kebab, Sheer Khurma and a wide range of biryanis. **When:** April 17, 24 **Where:** MoMo Café, Courtyard by Marriott ORR, Bellandur

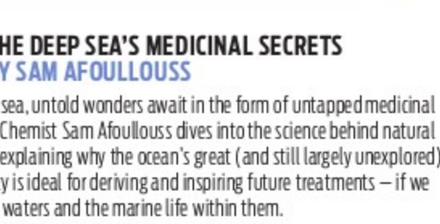


Brunch party

Fox in the Field is celebrating Easter with Malted maple waffles and Bananas Foster, Herb-crusted prime ribs and traditional Easter favourites like Hot cross buns, Chocolate eggs, Roasted lamb, Slow roasted pork chops and more. **When:** April 17 **Price:** ₹ 1,050 (adults), ₹500 (children above 5 years of age)

Carnatic Music Concert

Yuvasangeetha Vaibhava will see artistes Bangalore M Nishanth and Aditi B Prahalad perform on stage. Janadhan Srinath will play the violin and Phanindra Bhaskara will be on the mridanga. **When:** April 17 **Where:** Khincha Hall, Race Course Road



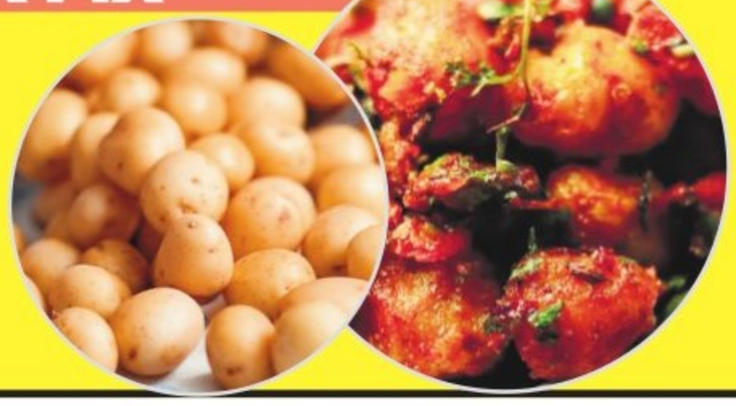
Iftar meals

Iftar Special Ramadan Feast menu at The Leela Bhartiya City Bengaluru includes Arabic mezze, gourmet dates, Sujuk kebabs, along with haleem. Sherbat like Tamar Hind, Laban, Karkadeh and Pistachio Baklavas and Gourmet Dates are also included in the buffet spread. **Priced:** ₹ 1,550++ per person **When:** Till May 1

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.



GUN POWDER BABY POTATOES

INGREDIENTS

- **Baby potatoes:** 500 g
- **Cumin, coriander & fennel seeds:** 1/2 tsp each
- **Butter:** 1 tbsp, **Oil:** 3 tbsp
- **Onion:** 1/2 ■ **Kebab masala:** 1 tsp ■ **Kashmiri chilli powder:** 1/2 tsp ■ **Green chillies:** 3-4 ■ **Salt** to taste
- **Juice** of half lime

METHOD

- Cook baby potatoes in a pressure cooker for a whistle. Drain and pat dry. Fry them in hot oil.
- Dry roast the coriander, cumin and fennel seeds and coarsely grind them.
- Heat oil and butter, fry onions till golden brown.
- Add ground green chilli, spice powder and cook for a minute or two on low flame.
- Toss in baby potatoes, kebab masala, salt and cook.
- Garnish with coriander leaves, chopped spring onions.

–Jyothi Varne, Bengaluru (Instagram: @spicecharmer)

FIT BIT

HASTA GARUDASANA IN MALASANA

(HAND POSITION OF THE POSE DEDICATED TO GARUDA IN GARLAND POSE)

This pose, dedicated to Garuda, is an important pose of yoga. Garuda was the official carrier of Lord Vishnu and was always eager to fight against demons and help humanity. This is a sanding pose which is believed to enhance concentration. It focuses on the ankles, calves, thighs, hips and shoulders. The combination with Malasana is one of the simplest and most beneficial yoga asana.

STEPS

- Stand in Tadasana (Mountain pose) at the top end of the mat.
- Keep your legs 2 to 2.5 feet apart. Inhale deeply. Exhale, bend your knees and sit on your soles.
- Raise the arms parallel to the floor, palms facing upwards. Cross your arms placing the right arm above the left arm.
- Bend at the elbows. Wrap the left forearm around and under the right. Rest your left hand's fingers firmly on your right palm. Keep the spine erect. Gaze at your raised fingers. Hold for 15 to 20 seconds, taking deep breaths.
- To return, gently release the arms first and then the legs. Take 3 deep and long breaths, and repeat the pose with arms' position interchanged.

BENEFITS

- Helps to reduce belly fat.
- Gives a good stretch to the lower back, sacrum, genitalia and hips.
- Stimulates the metabolism, and increases the blood flow and flexibility.
- Beneficial for lower back pain, especially for the woman during menstruation.
- Activates the calves and glutes.
- Opens the hips and groin.
- Solves constipation problems.
- Treats acidity and many other stomach problems.
- The pressure in the stomach and intestines enhances the digestive process.
- Stimulates the reproductive organs and helps reduce the symptoms of menstruation and menopause.

LIMITATIONS

- Those suffering from knee or lower back pain, pregnant women and those on their period should avoid this pose.
- Do not perform soon after a run.
- If you have diarrhoea or any physical ailments, do not do it without proper consultation.

–N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

ON THE CONTRARY
Host and thought leader, Arun Maira brings two experts from different fields, regions, and worldviews to explore their similarities and differences on a topic, to find a new, shared understanding.
- On Google Podcast

I HEAR YOU
After a near-fatal car crash, Priyamvada Parmar's life changes – she discovers that she is clairaudient and can hear voices from beyond the grave. But is this a boon or a curse?
- On Spotify

THE RANVEER SHOW
Ranveer Allahbadia aka BeerBiceps brings you #TheRanveerShow. Every episode has been designed to bring you some kind of value add.
- On Spotify

ECHOES OF INDIA: A HISTORY PODCAST
Host Anirudh Kanisetti takes you on a journey through its wonders, from the Greek art of Afghanistan to the thriving ports of Tamil Nadu. From philosophy to politics to economics, the past comes back to life.
- On Apple Podcast

IDEAS OF INDIA
Through conversations with top thinkers in the social sciences and beyond, economist Shruti Rajagopalan explores the ideas that will propel India forward.
- On Spotify

WHAT'S UP SISTER?
Join sisters Kritika and Deeksha for a fun podcast about all things in life and weekly dose of girl talk.
- On Apple Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

DHARMADURAI
Dharmadurai, a heartbroken doctor, turns to alcohol and becomes the source of embarrassment for his family. However, a meeting with an old friend changes his life for good.
Cast: Vijay Sethupathi, Srushti Dange, Aishwarya Rajesh, Tamannaah

IRAIVI
Three men, who are financially struggling, get involved in criminal activities to improve their financial status. However, they end up in prison and their wives are forced to lead an independent life.
Cast: Vijay Sethupathi, Bobby Simha, SJ Surya, Anjali

NAMMAVAR
Selvam, the new vice principal of a college, tries to transform the behaviour of troublemaking students while fighting an inner war.
Cast: Kamal Haasan, Gautami, Karan, Nagesh

AATHI
Aadhi comes to Chennai for his education and meets Anjali, falling in love with her. Soon, they learn that they are both on a mission to avenge the death of their parents.
Cast: Vijay, Prakash Raj, Trisha, Vivek

JOKER
Mannar Mannan, a villager, declares himself as the president of India and fights corruption and social injustices.
Cast: Guru Somasundaram, Ramya Pandian, Gayathri

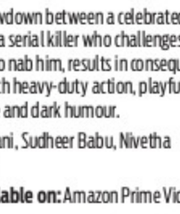
WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 THE DEEP SEA'S MEDICINAL SECRETS BY SAM AFOULLOUSS
Under the sea, untold wonders await in the form of untapped medicinal potential. Chemist Sam Afoullouss dives into the science behind natural remedies, explaining why the ocean's great (and still largely unexplored) biodiversity is ideal for deriving and inspiring future treatments – if we protect its waters and the marine life within them.

2 WAR IN UKRAINE–AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE WORLD ORDER BY IAN BREMMER
In this vital conversation, political analyst Ian Bremmer takes a closer look at the global implications of the war, including NATO and the EU's renewed sense of purpose, the spiral of escalation, energy politics and the significant, potentially permanent shifts in the world order.

3 3 THINGS MEN CAN DO TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUITY BY JIMMIE BRIGGS
"It is time for a gender reckoning, beginning with men authentically confronting our internal selves and each other," says essayist and intersectional justice advocate Jimmie Briggs. In this call to action for gender equity, he unpacks how traditional notions of masculinity harm society and offers three ways men can help promote personal safety.

4 THE CARBONLESS FUEL THAT COULD CHANGE HOW WE SHIP GOODS BY MARIA GALLUCCI
Every day, thousands of cargo ships, release heavy pollution into the air as they make their way across the ocean. In this eye-opening talk, reporter Maria Gallucci introduces a planet-friendly alternative that could fuel these globe-trotting vessels: green ammonia.



5 3 WAYS YOUR COMPANY'S DATA CAN JUMP-START CLIMATE ACTION BY MASSIMO RUSSO
From helping build smart cities to supporting the sustainable energy sector, the possibilities of big data are endless. But many companies are still wary of sharing data that could expose them to risk and diminish their competitive advantage. Data cooperation expert Massimo Russo shares three ways to jump-start a virtuous cycle of data sharing.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

BADHAAI DO (Hindi)
Instead of coming out to their families, a gay man and a lesbian enter into a marriage of convenience to appease their parents. Chaos soon ensues when the woman's girlfriend comes to live with the unlikely couple.
Cast: Rajkummar Rao, Bhumi Pednekar, Chum Darang, Gulshan Devaiah
- **Available on:** Netflix

83 (Hindi)
Amid doubt and derision, indomitable captain Kapil Dev leads India's struggling cricket team to make history at the 1983 World Cup.
Cast: Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Pankaj Tripathi
- **Available on:** Netflix

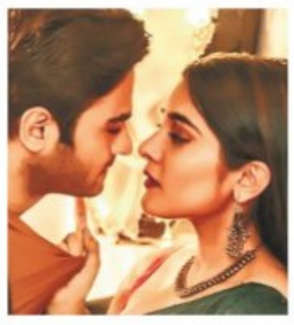
DASVI (Hindi)
Jailed under a tough cop, an uneducated politician decides to spend his time studying for high school, while his scheming wife has plans of her own.
Cast: Abhishek Bachchan, Yami Gautam, Nimrat Kaur
- **Available on:** Netflix

ZINDAGI NA MILEGI DOBARA (Hindi)
Three friends on an adventurous road trip/bachelor party in Spain learn some lessons about themselves and each other that will change them forever.
Cast: Hrithik Roshan, Abhay Deol, Farhan Akhtar
- **Available on:** Netflix

PUSHPA: THE RISE (Telugu)
Pushpa Raj a coolie, volunteers to smuggle red sanders, a rare wood that only grows in Andhra, with the help of novel ideas to smuggle the red sanders. Pushpa quickly becomes the leader of the red sanders smuggling network. While Pushpa is at his prime, a ruthless police officer Bhanwar Singh Shekhawat takes charge as SP and ridicules Pushpa for his lineage.
Cast: Allu Arjun, Fahadh Faasil, Rashmika Mandanna
- **Available on:** Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

DOCTOR (Tamil)
When his fiance's niece is kidnapped, a stoic army doctor and his motley team launch a rescue operation in which they need both wit and their wits.
When: Sivakarthikeyan, Vinay Rai, Priyanka Arul Mohan
- **Available on:** Netflix



V (Tamil)
The showdown between a celebrated cop and a serial killer who challenges the former to nab him, results in consequences laced with heavy-duty action, playful romance and dark humour.
Cast: Nani, Sudheer Babu, Nivetha Thomas
- **Available on:** Amazon Prime Video

FOREIGN

CHERNOBYL (English)
In April 1986, the city of Chernobyl in the Soviet Union suffers one of the worst nuclear disasters in the history of mankind. Consequently, many heroes put their lives on the line to save Europe.
Cast: Jared Harris, Stellan Skarsgard, Paul Ritter, Emily Watson
- **Available on:** Disney+ Hotstar

THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL (English)
Gustave H, a concierge, is wrongly framed for murder at the Grand Budapest Hotel. In the process of proving his innocence, he befriends a lobby boy.
Cast: Ralph Fiennes, Billy Murray, Tilda Swinton, Tony Revolori
- **Available on:** Disney+ Hotstar

TWENTY FIVE TWENTY ONE (Korean)
In a time when dreams seem out of reach, a teen fencer pursues big ambitions and meets a hardworking young man who seeks to rebuild his life.
Cast: Kim Tae-ri, Nam Joo-hyuk, Kim Ji-yeon
- **Available on:** Netflix

THE IN BETWEEN (English)
After losing the love of her life in a tragic accident, a brokenhearted teen begins to believe that he's sending her signs from beyond the grave.
Cast: Joey King, Kyle Allen, Kim Dickens
- **Available on:** Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION
- **Disney+Hotstar:** ₹ 499 per year
- **Apple TV:** ₹ 99 per month
- **Prime Video:** ₹ 179 per month
- **Netflix:** ₹ 149 per month

HOT VERSUS SULTRY

RUBINATIONS
Rubi Chakravarti
Writer, actor and funny girl

I often speak about the changing face of *namma ooru* and the change is not always for the better. Change is good, but there is an intrinsic difference between changing and evolving. Both are inevitable in a growing culture, but 'change' can be swift and unrelenting whereas 'evolving' is more humane, slower and more graceful. Unfortunately, Bengaluru is a long way from being evolved, and it pains the die-hard Bengalurueans like me. We seem to have lost that certain 'je nais ce quoi' that made this city tick.

One can see the decay when one ventures out to concerts, malls or parties. The cacophony is ear splitting. Loud music with louder chatter, the pushing, the shoving and people butting into conversations make venturing out an unpleasant experience. Blatant liars and hypocrites run amuck with their cache of half-truths... whew! It sounds terrible doesn't it? Well, it is! And the worst sight is to watch the gracious auld Bengalureans witness these shenanigans open-mouthed. They are too polite to comment. Everybody has to fight for their own city. If we allow all kind of dorks, men in white and the local louts to con their way into our city, then we can't complain. We have to collectively put a stop to it...Now!

Now let me also expound about what was once our quintessential mild and naturally air-conditioned weather, which has been badly affected. I can almost swear that the soaring temperatures are only a couple of degrees cooler than the Thar Desert! Now that I have become a believer of good and bad energy, my maid and I are firmly convinced that someone has put a pox on our city (colloquially called '*kann*' or evil eye). Why? We still have to find a rational answer to that, but for now a 'kann' will suffice.

Swapna Venkatesh and Sheetal C

Sombir Choudhary and Shruti Saha

I must admit that being a staunch follower of eating whatever I choose to, I do get a little browned off with foods that don't contain those ingredients which make them tasty and palatable. I call them 'this free' or 'that free' products. It's fine if one 'likes to' (the operative word being 'like to') eat like that, but following that lifestyle is expensive. Then again, when food evangelists start spouting words like 'ethical' and 'saving the planet' my hackles rise a wee bit. It's rather ludicrous to drive your gas guzzling SUVs and expensive cars and then talk about saving the planet, n'est-ce-pas?

Putting things on the back burner my buddies and I decided to do what was 'hot n happening' by having lunch at Raahi. Their culinary consultant Sombir Choudhary is a passionate chef so the ladies and I, fortified by some great gin cocktails, made a hot afternoon sultry! There's nothing like good food to secrete happy hormones and I can swear by that!

I can't be a glutton for punishment all the time too, can I? So without much fanfare I arrived at The Grand Mercure on the invitation of my friend Sachin Maheshwari and Ganesh Iyer, managing partner for Zero Percent for their soft launch. Aptly named because their products have 0 per cent dairy, sugar, pesticides, gluten, meat or alcohol! Surely my vegan friends will rejoice that I drank an alcohol-free bubbly with natural water!

The heat is on...

GRUB HUB

Debolina Ray, a Bengaluru-based food & travel blogger who runs a blog called She Knows Grub, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday.
The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher worth ₹750 from RNR Donne Biryani**

1. Different parts of the country celebrated the harvest festivals and New Year this week, and there's a lot of food involved in every Indian festival. In Puthandu, there is one special seasonal dish that's a must-have on the menu, made with raw mangoes and neem leaves. What's this dish?
2. On Vishu, there's a mandatory menu item made to celebrate the festivities and usually consumed at breakfast. What's it called?
3. Up north in Punjab, for Baisakhi celebrations, there's a rice dish traditionally prepared with dry fruits and whole spices. Can you name this dish, and the ingredient that imparts the colour to it?

SWEET TALK

Here in town to promote her latest product, Pooja Dhingra tells *CE* what it takes to be a smart cookie

ANILA KURIAN

CELEBRITY chef **Pooja Dhingra** believes in making the cake (read macarons) and eating it too. She did that when she introduced macarons to India and eventually opened Le15 Patisserie, which specialises in macarons and a host of French desserts, over a decade ago. After some highs and lows thanks to the pandemic, Dhingra is now back with a new product in the market, cookies which come in various flavours like Crunchy Toffee, Brown Butter Pineapple, Signature Pink Cookie and Dark Chocolate Hazelnut Cookie.

In Bengaluru for its launch at Foodhall, she says, "As soon as you create one item, you immediately start wondering what could be next. Most of the items I have at my cafe perish within a few days, so I wanted to create something that would last longer."

The pandemic proved to be challenging with Dhingra having to shut down her cafes. "It all boiled down to the cash flow. Having said that, things are picking up and we're glad that interest is picking up," says the 'Queen of Macarons' as Dhingra has come to be known as.

Recently, among many Bengaluru-based chefs, Dhingra won the award for Pastry Chef of 2022 by Culinary Culture. "I'm honoured to be a part of the list and to have received the award. Having been in the industry for a long time now, you feel like you know what you want and how to go about things. Awards like these help you stay grounded and help you with your next move too," she says.

So, while running her macaron space, she's also working on her next book and season three of her podcast titled *NoSugarCoat* with Pooja Dhingra'. "I honestly have a great team which helps make everything happen. Most of my releases are things that I have been working on for a long time but they just happen to release around the same time. So it's mostly just managing my day-to-day schedule which isn't too bad."

As for her next book, she prefers to keep it under wraps for the moment. "It's mostly going to be recipes and we've narrowed it down to hundreds of them. We're at the testing stage so it's going to be a lot of fun — that's definitely my favourite part," she says.

Refreshing shift

THE essence of a 'hybrid drink' is to ideally retain the balance of tastes. When two or more traditional beverages are fused together, they form a drink that is flavourful and unconventionally unique.

While many beverages may be fused to stand out from the sea of commonplace drinks, some may also be completely redesigned. Let's make it easier to understand by talking about 'Heineken 0.0'. Essentially a non-alcoholic beverage, this drink not only tastes like beer but if I am to believe what some of my friends say, it even gives you a beer-like-high. While it can be mistaken for a fruit beer, one needs to understand that it is a malt beverage. It is the definition of a conventional beverage in an unconventional style.

MIXOLOGY
Avinash Kapoli
(The writer is beverage programmer - Raahi Neo Kitchen & Bar)

However, to give you a counter example, let's take 'Proffee' – a protein shake with coffee. While, on the surface of it, this drink may seem to fit right into the category of hybrid drinks, one must break it down to its key components to understand why it does not. While on one hand, coffee is a traditional beverage, it is important to understand that protein is only a health supplement. This eliminates it from the aforementioned category.

As hybrid drinks pave their way through the beverage industry, we can also see many conventional beverages following them, not too far behind. To mention a few, let's take a look at 'Desperados' beer and 'Bud light limerita'. While the former is a combination of beer and tequila, the latter, at 8 per cent ABV, is a beer mixed with a margarita cocktail. Mixologists, who are always on the path to experimenting day in and day out, are coming up with hybrid drinks constantly. But since jumping on the bandwagon of a trend is a new trend in itself, it is only a matter of time till these 'hybrid drinks' take over the market place in a new package.

CLASSIFIEDS

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) NIGAR SULTANA, residing at No. 15, 3rd Floor, Tulsi Ramdass Mutt Road, Roberstson Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) NIGAR SULTANA** to **(NEW NAME) NIGAR AZEEZ** vide affidavit Dated 13/04/2022 sworn before Notary N.Nagappa, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) ABDUL AZEEZ, residing at No. 15, 3rd Floor, Tulsi Ramdass Mutt Road, Roberstson Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) ABDUL AZEEZ** to **(NEW NAME) ABDUL AZEEZ.J.** vide affidavit Dated 13/04/2022 sworn before Notary N.Nagappa, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHAVYA M**, residing at No. 2 Vardhaka, Thindlu Main Road Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru – 560097, have changed my name from **BHAVYA M** alias **BHAVYA MAHADEVAPPA** to **BHAVYA RANJITH,** vide affidavit dated 14/04/2022, sworn before Notary C.N. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SEEMA SULTANA, W/o. Zaheer Khan, R/at No.34, 16th Cross, Lakkasandra, Adugodi Post, Bengaluru-560030, have changed my name to **SHEEMA SULTANA,** vide affidavit dated: 13.04.2022 before notary K.V MANI, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **CRUZ STELLA ROSY** D/o Marian Anthony, R/at 67/3, 1st Main Road, 2nd Stage, Michael Palya , New Thippasandra Post, Bengaluru-560075, have changed my name from **CRUZ STELLA ROSY to CRUZ STELLA MANOJ,** vide affidavit dated 12.04.2022 sworn before notary K.P.Sumangala, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SANDEEP BALA RAO,** S/o. Shri. B Sudarshan Rao, Residing at No.B205, 'B' Block, 2nd Floor, Vajra Global, No.16/1, 7th Stage, 2nd Main, 2nd Phase, 4th Cross, BEML Layout, Mylasandra, Bangalore – 560059, have changed my name from **"SANDEEP BALA"** to **"SANDEEP BALA RAO"** Vide affidavit dated 13.04.2022 Sworn before Notary Public. **C.K.Anupama,** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **SANTHOSH KUMAR SHETTY,** S/o. Mr.Thimmappa Shetty and Mamatha Shetty, W/o. Mr. Santhosh Kumar Shetty, Both are residing at No.11, 1 st Floor, 4th 'A' Cross, Near Indian Gas Agency, Manjunatha Colony, Tyagaraja Nagar, Bengaluru - 560028, we have changed our daughter name from **"SHRIYA SHETTY "** to **"AARNA SHETTY"** Vide affidavit dated 13.04.2022 Sworn before Notary Public **C.K.Anupama,** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, NIVEDITHA ABHIJITH, Residing at #10, 2nd Main, 1st Cross, Athmananda Colony, Sultanpalya, R.T.Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560032, have changed my Minor Son's name from **VEDRASH ABHIJITH** to **VIDHATH ANCHAN** Vide Affidavit Dated: 14/04/2022 Before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **A.C. STEFFI AUGUSTINA MARY,** D/o. A. Charles Chandrasekar, residing at No.25/26, SP Illam, Devaki Apparao Layout, 2nd Stage, Ramamurthynagar, Bengaluru- 560016 India, have changed my name from **A.C. STEFFI AUGUSTINA MARY** to **STEFFI AUGUSTINA MARY,** vide affidavit dated 11/04/2022, sworn to before Notary Public, S.R. Ravikumar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SURESH UPPAL,** Father of TAANYA UPPAL, residing at No.40/41, 2nd Floor, Jiwan Nilaya, 2nd Cross, Belmar Layout, Rukmini Nagar, Nagasandra, Bengaluru-560073 India, have changed my minor daughter's name from **TAANYA UPPAL** to **THANYA UPPAL,** vide affidavit dated 11/04/2022, sworn to before Notary Public, S.R. Ravikumar, Bangalore. Henceforth my daughter shall be known as THANYA UPPAL for all future purpose.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHASHANK,** aged 23yrs, S/o. Deepti Dayal, Residing at # G21, Century Linea, 18th Cross Road, Amruthahalli Jakkur, Bengaluru-560092, have changed my name to **SHASHANK DAYAL** vide affidavit dated: 09.04.2022 before notary B.S. PADMA PRASAD, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Girijamma** W/o Late Veerabhadraiah G, Residing at No.344/90/3912/9, 2nd Cross, Srinivasanagara, Doddagollarahatti, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560091, I State that my spouse job nominee and pension claims bears the name of mine as Smt Parvathamma, I Further state that by mistake my name has been mentioned as Smt. Parvathamma, instead of Smt. Girijamma in the said given nominee details. My Correct name is **Smt. Girijamma.** Vide Affidavit dated 27.09.2021 sworn before notary K.H.Jagadish, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SIVAPRAKASH, S/o. Murthy.R, residing at No. 126, Shiva Krupa Nilaya, 3rd Cross, Raghavendra Layout, Muddanapalya, Gidadakonenahalli, Bengaluru-560091, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SIVAPRAKASH** to **(NEW NAME) RAGI SHIVAPRAKASH** vide affidavit Dated 12/04/2022 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) SHANMUGAM, S/o. Palaniyandi, residing at No. 180/7, Command Hospital Air Force, Agram Post, Bangalore-560007, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SHANMUGAM** to **(NEW NAME) P.SHANMUGAM** vide affidavit Dated 14/04/2022 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore.

ANNOUNCEMENT
I, SUNITHA JOSE, aged about 43 years, D/o. Jose Mani, R/at No.2284, 14th A Main, H.A.L 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560008, Karnataka, India, I state that in my Daughter's document my name is wrongly mentioned as **SUNITHA AJI** instead of my correct name is **SUNITHA JOSE,** vide affidavit dated 15-04-2022, before notary K V MANI, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SASHI WALA SINGH, Spouse of Sundar Singh, Resident of C/o. S Saravanan, #3, 2nd Main, 2nd Floor, KR Garden, Murugeshpalaya, Bangalore-560017, have changed my name from **SASHI WALA SINGH** to **SHASHI WALA SINGH** Vide Affidavit Dated 12th April 2022 Before Notary A R Muneer Ahmed Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, JAMUNA Spouse of No: 02777852M Rank Ex. Sep Name: Yeshwanth Rao, No.2, 13th Cross, Swimming Pool Extension, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 003, have changed my name from **JAMUNA** to **JAMUNA RAO,** vide affidavit dated 11.04.2022 before the Notary R.Vishwanath.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MADHU SUDHANA RAO BOMMINENI MALAKONDAIAH** R/at No.53, 9th Cross, Sadashiva Temple Road, R S Palya, Kammanahalli Main Road, Bangalore-560033, have changed my name to **MADHU SUDHAN BOMMINENI** vide affidavit dated: 14/4/2022 Before Notary **C.Sharada** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MAMATHA, MAMATHA C D,** R/at No.1, Kachanayanakanahalli, Harish Reddy Layout, Hennagara Post, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-560099, have changed my name to **MAMATHA KRISHNA NAIK** vide affidavit dated:14/4/2022 Before Notary **Chanchala Lakshmi** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
It is brought to the public notice that I, **SAMRAT CHANDA,** Son of Bibekananda Chanda, Aged about 45 years, Residing at No.49, Vaswani Whispering Palms, Vaswani Lane, SBR Palace, Marathalli, Bangalore-560037 decalre that, all my records and documents reflect my name as **SAMRAT CHANDA,** whereas my Aadhar and PAN reflects my name as **SAMRAT VIVEKANANDA CHANDA.** Hereinafter I shall be known as and I will carry out all my future transactions in my name as **SAMRAT CHANDA.** I have sworn to the Affidavit notorized on 05.04.2022.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHEETAL GAURAV BHUSHAN GOTHI (OLD NAME), W/o GAURAV BHUSHAN GOTHI,** aged about 43 years, Residing at Flat No.101102, Tower-10, Nikoo Homes-1, Bhartiya City, Thanisandra Main Road, Bangalore - 560064, India, changed my name from SHEETAL GAURAV BHUSHAN GOTHI to **SHEETAL GOTHI** vide affidavit dated 13th April, 2022, sworn before Notary Uday Kumar K at Bengaluru. Henceforth, I shall be known as **SHEETAL GOTHI** for all purposes.

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A still from the film *Kantara*

Kantara theatrical teaser garners good response

Directorial venture of Rishab Shetty has been wrapped up except for a song sequence; film already in the post-production phase

A SHARADHAA

THE theatrical teaser of *Kantara*, directed by and starring Rishab Shetty, was screened along with *KGF Chapter 2* on April 14, which has garnered an immense response. The teaser gives a peek into human and nature conflict and also highlights Kambala sport. The makers have now shared a still with *CE* featuring the lead actor in a Kambala sequence.Rishab has wrapped up the shooting for *Kantara* except for a song sequence, which will be shot during the rainy season. Meanwhile, Rishab has now got into the post-production work for *Kantara*, which in all likelihood will be released by the end of 2022.

The Kannada film is produced by Vijay Kiragandur under the Hombale Films banner. Sapthami Gowda, who previously made her debut with Suri's *Popcorn Monkey Tiger*, plays the female lead in *Kantara*. The film's cast comprises Kishore, Achyuth Kumar, and Pramod Shetty in prominent roles. Aravind S Kashyap is the director of photography. Ajaneesh Loknath will composed the music and background score for the film.

National award-winning stunt master Vikram Mor, who worked in *KGF Chapter 1*, is part of the project.

Rishab Shetty

AN EXPLOSIVE SEQUEL POWERED BY A TERRIFIC YASH

KGF: CHAPTER 2

Cast: Yash, Sanjay Dutt, Raveena Tandon, Srinidhi Shetty

Director: Prashanth Neel

AVINASH RAMACHANDRAN

FOUR years ago, the makers of *KGF: Chapter 1* made a promise to take Kannada cinema to new regions and audiences. They are now back with *KGF: Chapter 2*, and it's fair to say that the promise has been kept. Written and directed by Prashanth Neel, the *KGF* films have appealed to the entire nation's consciousness and reinvented the time-tested story of an underdog's triumph against all odds. When the underdog is the seemingly invincible Rocky Bhai (Yash), every element of the masala template is dialled up to astronomical levels.

The second part resumes from where the first part ends. We now see the "pillars" of Narachi being forced to accept Rocky as their new boss. Of course, this leads to resentment across the board, and it is clear that betrayals will hit our protagonist left, right, and centre. But *KGF* isn't about plot ingenuity; it's about inventive filmmaking. Every time we think that a high point of a particular conflict has been reached, Prashanth Neel zooms out to show that it's all just the tip of an iceberg. This happens on more than one occasion and stands testament to some great writing. Where in another film the meeting of Adheera and Rocky might have been shown as the ideal climactic showdown, here, we get three brilliant sequences capturing the oscillation of power, and each of these scenes deliver grandeur and intensity that the film will forever be known for. There's also the hyper-stylised violence that was such an important part of the first film. Sure, there is a lot to discuss about where the film falls on the moral spectrum, but the arresting visual style keeps analysis at bay.

RATING 3.5/5

The big problem is the terribly underwritten female lead. Srinidhi Shetty's Reena suffers from a severe case of Stockholm Syndrome, and it's hard not to feel sympathetic for why she gets relegated to the background. Even smaller roles like Easwari Rao's character get neatly rounded arcs. The film also runs the risk of feeling bloated, especially in the pre-interval portions, when layer after layer gets packed in. There are one too many villains and crisscrossing storylines. In fact, I wasn't sure if the final few minutes justice to events that have taken place over two films and eight years. However, the towering performance of Yash, rooted in nonchalance, keeps us hooked. His emotional turns, more than the playful bits, are more effective, and his enraged eyes say way more than his trademark broken English does. The dialogues too add to the undercurrent of humour, but then, there are all these lines that could so easily be turned into motivational posters: "Greed is good... Greed is progress..."

Another writing highlight of *KGF: Chapter 2* is how a buildup song also acts as a quick narration of the first part. It is ingenious and inventive. Discussing logic serves no purpose in such a film, but for what it's worth, every actor stays true to Prashanth's world. The technical team too steps up, conjuring mesmerising visuals to keep us invested in the world of KGF. Keeping the colour palette to a minimum, cinematographer Bhuvan Gowda gives us stunning visuals that capture the grandeur of the project without ever showboating. No aspect of the opulence feels wasted or excessive. Be it the vast expanses of the mines or the never-ending shots of vehicles including cars, planes, ships, bikes, helicopters... the imagery is glorious. Any showboating comes from the edit table of Ujwal Kulkarni. Even here, in the over-the-top world of *KGF*, his work fits in just fine. Composer Ravi Basrur, art director Shivakumar, and stunt choreographers Anbariv are all in form as well. Every high moment of K*GF: Chapter 2* is the collaborative work of these artists, and it is wonderful to see them all deliver.

The pan-Indian movie idea may feel like a gimmick with many films, but the *KGF* franchise is a true-blue example of this trend. The success of the first part has pushed the makers to dream bigger, and they have brought in names like Sanjay Dutt, Raveena Tandon, Rao Ramesh, and Prakash Raj for quality and wider reach. Sanjay Dutt is menacing as Adheera, the primary antagonist, and writer-director Prashanth treats him with respect. Adheera even gets moments that place him above Rocky Bhai, and the same holds good for Raveena's Ramika Sen as well. Both actors ace their roles. As for Prakash Raj, Replacing Anant Nag is no easy task, and it is much credit to the writing once again that neatly brings him into the mix. The actor's baritone brings an interesting mix of humility and pride to the narration. However, despite all these names, the film never loses focus on what it is actually about: Yash and Rocky Bhai. The relentless attempts at elevating the star gives us a fascinating film that proves once again that the world will always cherish 'mother sentiment' films.

At an important juncture in *KGF: Chapter 2,* Rocky asks his detractors to avoid pointless conversations about their territories. He adds, "The world is my territory". If the response to this film is any indication, *KGF: Chapter 2* is proof of an outsider breaking down walls to become the most unlikely pan-Indian superstar... or as he would perhaps put it, its 'ONLY Rocking Star'.

Love Mocktail actor will be paired opposite Ajaya Prithvi in this yet-to-be-titled film, directed by Ambareesh

Rachana Inder

Rachana Inder roped in for comedy-entertainer

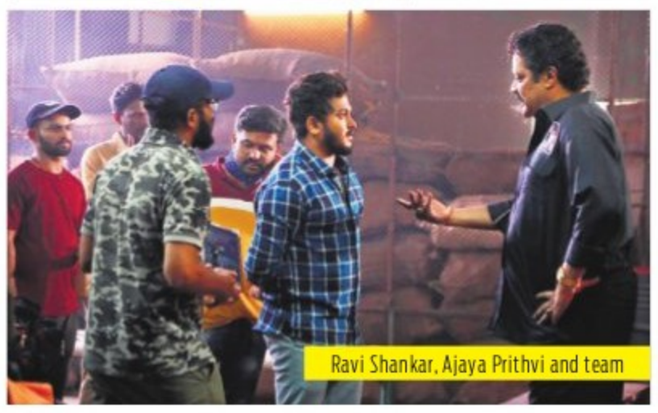
CE FEATURES

RACHANA Inder of *Love Mocktail* fame, who is currently shooting for director Shashank's *Love 360,* has bagged another interesting project. The yet-to-be-titled film, directed by Ambareesh, will be a comedy entertainer with a social message, and Rachana will be paired alongside the lead actor Ajaya Prithvi.

For Ambareesh, who has helmed *Kalantaka* and the yet-to-be-released film *Hope,* this film marks his third venture. On the other hand, this is Ajaya Prithvi's second film after *Purushothamana Prasanga.* Ajaya will be playing the role of an ambulance driver in this film, which is backed by Ravi Kumar's Rashtrakuta Pictures banner in association with H Kumar.

The film's muhurath took place recently and the makers have kickstarted shooting. The team shared a few stills with *CE.*

Popular dubbing artiste and well-known actor Ravi Shankar will be back on the silver screen with this film. With Alesh handling the camerawork, and Judah Sandy scoring the music, Ambareesh's directorial also features Cockroach Sudhi, Govinde Gowda, and Ashwin Hassan in the cast.



Ravi Shankar, Ajaya Prithvi and team

A short film titled *Help* to stream on OTT

CE FEATURES

A social awareness short film titled *Help* is set to be released on OTT on April 27. It's directed by Jerrin Chandan and produced by D N Aditya. The makers will be holding a premiere on April 20.

Producer Aditya, who has also played a role in the film, said, "*Help* is an interesting story of a nun's desire to help - which later becomes her identity. The short film dwells on the psychology of helping. The story is also about a street dweller, which comes with a killer climax."

The film features B Suresha, Abhijith Rao, Veena Sundar, Swathi, and Nisha Yash Ram. The 30-minute-long film will be out on MX player, Hungama Play, Moviewood, ABC Talkies, and other OTT platforms.

A still from the film *Help*

MAGIC BEHIND THE MULTIVERSE

GOPINATH RAJENDRAN

THE upcoming Benedict Cumberbatch-starrer *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* is said to be the key to a new dimension in the celebrated Marvel Cinematic Universe. Based on the trailer, it looks like the bridge connecting the present to the future of the franchise, which is expected to take a different turn with upcoming titles. Naturally, expectations for the film are sky-high among the fans of the superhero. The trailers, replete with enchanting and wild visuals, of the film have also fuelled anticipation. Addressing the gorgeous visuals of the film, Cumberbatch shares, "I think already some of the clips people have seen in the trailer spots are just exquisite. You have got to travel through many different universes in a couple of sequences, which I think are going to be truly mind-blowing and will be a cause for a revolving-door audience. I think it's really how they are held together with a lot of real-life environments and set build."

The actor says that the spectacular imagery of the film will challenge the imaginations of the viewer. "I love how big everyone's imaginations get, how they somehow manage to ally with me as Strange. Also, not to mention how it would be to think about something that's 20 stories high bearing down on him and throwing a bus at him. It's magic. And, on the day, Strange carving that thing in half is just a big old fan with a load of people with their hair just going all over the place. And you think, 'How is this going to work?' But you just give yourself into the moment, and to see the end product is just such a transformational experience for an actor." The actor shares that experiencing the film on the big screen is nothing short of magic and that he is equally excited to watch the film. "It's such a transformational experience to be in something in the live-action vein of filming and then see the finished results on the big screen. You don't know what film you are in until you have sat in the theatre. It's magical, and I am really looking forward to that buzz. But, on the day, you just throw yourself into it with imagination and a childlike sense of play and letting go of your self-consciousness because it's ridiculous what you are trying to achieve or pretend to do. They make it look supremely cool in the end product. So, bring it on. I can't wait to see it."

Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness will release in theatres in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam on May 6, 2022.